

JPRS-UMA-84-032

18 April 1984

USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS



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18 April 1984

USSR REPORT MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

CANDIDATES ADDRESS VOTERS IN ELECTION MEETINGS IN MOLDAVIA, LATVIA

A. S. Yelagin in Tiraspol'

Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 16 Feb 84 p 2

[Article] In the run-up to elections to the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, voters in the Tiraspol' electoral district met with their candidate for deputy to the country's highest organ of state power, Colonel General A. S. Yelagin, commander of the Red Banner Odessa Military District, in Tiraspol'. A. A. Mokuanu, first secretary of the Tiraspol' city party committee, opened the meeting.

Meeting participants honored the memory of Yu. V. Andropov with a minute of silence.

Representing the candidate for deputy, V. A. Usacheva, director of Spinning and Weaving Factory No. 1 of the cotton production association, spoke about A. S. Yelagin's career and professional and social activities.

N. F. Gapchuk, machine milking supervisor for Kolkhoz imeni Michurin in Slobo-dzeyskiy Rayon, O. I. Plyashchenko, senior production engineer for Sewn Goods Production Association imeni 40th Anniversary of the Komsomol, V. S. Stanev, grinder operator at an electrical equipment plant and others speaking at the meeting called attention to the fact that this election campaign is taking place in an atmosphere of great political and labor enthusiasm generated by decisions of the December (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenum and documents approved by the 9th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. In preparing a worthy salute to the great and glorious celebration marking the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Moldavian SSR and the founding of the Communist Party of Moldavia, collectives of the republic's enterprises are engaging in a vigorous search for new ways to increase production efficiency.

Everything the party does it does in the name of man and on behalf of man with the objective of raising the material and spiritual standards of living of the Soviet people, the candidate for deputy declared in addressing his voters. He turned then to a discussion of the perceptible changes which have occurred in our life since the last elections and of the contributions of the fraternal union republics to the effort to build up the economic strength of the fatherland.

A. S. Yelagin also pointed to the fact that the troops of the Odessa Military District have made their contribution, too, to their country's efforts and are proud of the part they have played. They are now helping to build the Severo-Krymskiy and Kakhovskiy trunk canals. The district's motor transport subunits have moved great amounts of agricultural products from the country's fields over the past five years. Military construction personnel have put up a number of important structures and turned 147 residential units over for occupation. Military subunits within the district are providing the district's entire annual requirement for dairy products, eggs and vegetable oil and one-third of its meat requirement.

The plan for economic and social development and the 1984 budget approved by the USSR Supreme Soviet outline steps to be taken to increase the country's strength and improve its people's standard of living and provide for everything necessary to maintain the country's defense capability at the required level. The CPSU and Soviet Government are doing everything possible to insure peaceful conditions for the life and labors of the Soviet peoples and maintain world peace and national security. But the world situation as it has in reality evolved is critical and explosive. In their effort to dominate the world, the ruling circles of the U.S. have started a no-holds-barred arms race. State terrorism and efforts to dictate its will to sovereign states by force of arms have been elevated to the level of official policy.

The Washington administration, A. S. Yelagin continued, is deliberately aggravating relations with the Soviet Union and unleashing the filthiest of provocations against the socialist countries. Recent years have seen the U.S. conclude a series of military agreements with Turkey, Spain, Greece, Tunisia and other Mediterranean countries covering such things as the construction of new military bases and the deployment of strategic weapons. New radio-electronic surveillance and control systems are now being sited near the borders of the USSR.

The ideological struggle against socialism in terms of both manpower and equipment and facilities has been substantially intensified as well. Two new anti-Soviet radio stations have been built on Cyprus, which have expanded the capabilities of the 150 transmitters now broadcasting to the socialist countries. The lies and slander they are spreading combined with a program of economic and political sabotage are aimed at breaking the countries of the socialist community apart and inciting nationalist passions.

The deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles right at our doorstep constitutes a direct threat to the security of both the USSR and the entire socialist community and a move extremely hostile to the cause of peace. The White House has broken up the negotiations on the limitation and reduction of armaments in Europe with this move. What we are seeing here is a blatant attempt on the part of the U.S. to tip the military balance on our continent as well as globally in its favor. But this will never happen! Our people are fully resolved to deal a firm rebuff to the "crusade" against socialism Washington has declared.

The U.S. has forced us to take certain measures in response, A. S. Yelagin declared. Under these new conditions, the Soviet Union considers itself no longer bound by obligations it had assumed unilaterally, the moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles in the European part of our country. Missiles, of course

are not the only means we have available with which to defend ourselves. Any moves the U.S. administration makes to upset the European and general strategic balance will, if necessary, meet with other measures in response.

The military-political situation in the world today is a difficult one, but one which should not be dramatized. The Soviet people have strong nerves. Our enemies have tried more than once to test the strength of the socialist system. All these attempts have met with failure. So all the more hopeless would any attempt be today, when the forces of socialism and progress around the world have grown immeasurably stronger.

The valiant fighting men of the Soviet Armed Forces constitute an unshakable bulwark of our national defense and a powerful guarantee of world peace. Thanks to the concern of our party and the efforts of the Soviet people, our armed forces, among which are the troops of the Red Banner Odessa Military District, are capable of measuring up to the rigorous requirements of the present day.

In concluding his speech, the candidate for deputy once again expressed his gratitude for the trust which has been placed in him and assured his listeners that he will do his best to justify this trust and to prove himself equal to the demands made of the deputy by both the party and the people.

Also participating in the meeting was B. N. Savochko, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moldavia.

Akhromeyev at Bel'tskiy District

Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 17 Feb 84 p 2

[Speech by Marshal of the Soviet Union S. F. Akhromeyev to gathering of voters in Bel'tskiy electoral district; date and place not given: "Strengthen the Motherland's Defense Capability"]

[Text] In the run-up to elections to the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, voters of the Bel'tskiy electoral district met with their candidate for deputy to the country's highest organ of state power, Marshal of the Soviet Union S. F. Akhromeyev, first deputy chief of the general staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

V. M. Iovv, first secretary of the Bel'tskiy party city committee, opened the meeting.

Those participating in the meeting then honored the memory of Yu. V. Andropov with a minute of silence.

Representing the candidate, V. P. Stetsenko, director of the V. I. Lenin production association, reviewed S. F. Akhromeyev's career and professional and social activities and called upon voters on election day to give their unanimous support to candidates of the communist-nonparty bloc.

Addressing the meeting, N. M. Omel'yan, leader of a brigade of construction trust electricians, V. M. Sakhan', a driver for motor transport combine No. 1, I. S. Banar', first secretary of the Bel'tskiy city Komsomol committee, L. F. Kublyak, a

student at the Pedagogical Institute imeni A. Russo, and others declared that the working people of the city, as does the entire Soviet people, enthusiastically approve the decision of the extraordinary CPSU Central Committee plenum to select Comrade K. U. Chernenko, an outstanding figure in our party and government, as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; they fully support the positions stated in his speech at the plenum and will continue their selfless efforts to implement the decisions of the 26th Party Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums.

Speaking at the meeting was S. F. Akhromeyev. He thanked voters warmly for putting him forward as a candidate for deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet and assured them that all his practical experience, knowledge and abilities will be devoted to the cause of strengthening the country's defense capability.

The Soviet people have enthusiastically approved the decisions of the December (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenum and the 9th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the candidate for deputy declared. They are filled with concern for efforts to increase the strength of the country's economy and defense and a concern for man. These decisions have sparked an upsurge of labor enthusiasm among the Soviet people and confirmed their confidence in the feasibility of the plans outlined by the party of Lenin.

Our country has now confidently begun the fourth year of the five-year-plan period. Performance results for 1983 show convincingly that the steps the CPSU Central Committee has outlined to improve management, tightening planning and labor discipline, increase managerial responsibility and stimulate the creativity of the Soviet people are having a beneficial effect upon our rates of economic growth. The thesis put forward by the CPSU Central Committee that the most important thing now is for us not to lose our momentum or our positive attitude toward this effort, for us to intensify efforts to develop positive processes, has been adopted as a guide to action.

We are now living and laboring, he emphasized, in a situation in which an improved defense capability for the motherland and stronger armed forces are particularly necessary. The peaceful labors of the Soviet people and their friends have to be defended. The imperialists of the U.S. are doing everything possible to aggravate the situation and heightening the danger of war. They are trying to undermine the economy of the Soviet Union in particular and of the socialist community as a whole and to disrupt our national economic plans, or at least to make it as difficult as possible to fulfill them. To force us into an arms race is one aspect of this general plan.

The speaker pointed out to his listeners that a purposeful political and economic struggle is being carried on against us. The methods employed in this struggle are becoming increasingly highly refined. It makes extensive use of lies and slander. These have the objective of instilling hatred toward the USSR among the societies and peoples of the West and hostility toward the ideas of communism.

In a number of different places in the world the imperialists are suppressing national-liberation movements and snuffing out any attempts to undertake progressive transformations, demonstrating in the process a willingness to employ any means, even the use of military force. Outright brigandage in Grenada and Lebanon,

interference in the internal affairs of other countries in the Near East, Central America and southern Africa, the exertion of military pressure on these countries—this is the way we see the United States of America behaving in the world. The military preparations the U.S. is undertaking with the objective of readying itself to unleash war have taken on particularly threatening forms.

The U.S., S. F. Akhromeyev declared, has openly proclaimed its objective to be the establishment of military superiority over the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist community. When they achieve this, they then plan to dictate their will to us, extract concessions from us and impose systems upon us which please the imperialists. We have to be aware of this danger and do everything possible to build up our country's strength.

Posing a particular threat to the cause of peace is the deployment of new American intermediate-range nuclear missiles in a number of West European countries, a step the U.S. has taken against the will of these peoples. As should have been anticipated, the expectation on the part of Western politicians and strategists that they would then be able to negotiate with us from a position of strength, to attempt to gain unilateral military advantages, have met with failure. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that the USSR will not permit any disruption of the existing balance of forces and that it will not allow anyone to dictate conditions to us. Responsibility for the current state of affairs rests entirely upon the U.S. administration.

The statements of our party and government have presented a thoroughgoing, clear-cut analysis of the causes of this dangerous state of tension. These declarations also outline specific steps which can be taken to reduce these tensions. The Soviet Union has spoken out in favor of negotiations from positions of true equality, of dialogue and the achievement of practical agreements to limit and reduce nuclear armaments on a basis of equality and mutual security. In his speech to the extraordinary CPSU Central Committee plenum, Comrade K. U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, declared: "This Leninist peace policy, whose basic outlines have been defined at this point in history in decisions of recent CPSU congresses, corresponds to the fundamental interests of the Soviet people, and indeed to the other people's of the world. And we declare firmly: we will not retreat a single step from this policy."

The sharpening of the international situation, the increasing aggressiveness of imperialism and its unwillingness to take into account the changes now occurring in the world and the striving of the peoples for peace all require of the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community a high degree of vigilance and dictate that we concern ourselves continuously with our economic and defensive strength as well as with efforts to increase the combat readiness of the USSR's Armed Forces.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S. F. Akhromeyev talked about steps which were being taken to insure our own national security as well as that of our friends and allies. To increase the combat strength of our armed forces and to insure that they remain combat ready, capable of reliably defending the country against aggression and of dealing an annihilating blow in retaliation against any enemy attack are matters which receive continuous attention on the part of the CPSU Central Committee and the leaders of our party and government. In accomplishing the tasks

the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces works under the direction of the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo, directly under the leadership of Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Minister of Defense.

The responsibilities of the large USSR Ministry of Defense collective are critical and diverse. Together with other organizations and departments of our government, these people are continuously evaluating the world situation and taking steps to protect the national interests of the motherland and her friends in conformity with party and government decisions. They give particular attention to efforts to improve military cooperation among member states of the Warsaw Pact, which constitute a reliable guarantee of peace and security.

Dealing then in greater detail with the questions of modernizing the Soviet Armed Forces and increasing their combat strength, the speaker declared that the General Staff is concerning itself with this process together with other authorities within the ministry and the commands of the military districts and fleets. Working within this organization are experienced officers, generals, admirals and marshals who are selflessly devoted to the CPSU and the motherland. Many of them are veterans of the Great Patriotic War.

In conclusion, Marshal of the Soviet Union S. F. Akhromeyev once again warmly thanked his listeners for the great trust they had shown in him and assured them that he would discharge his duties responsibly and conscientiously.

Also participating in the meeting was P. P. Petrik, secretary of the central committee of the Communist Party of Moldavia.

Shabanov at Kishinev-Leninskiy

Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIA in Russian 19 Feb 84 p 3

[Speech by General of the Army V. M. Shabanov, deputy USSR minister of defense, to voters in Kishinev-Leninskiy electoral district; date and place not given: "Standing Guard over Socialism, Voters Meet V. M. Shabanov"]

[Text] Voters of the Kishinev-Leninskiy electoral district met with this district's candidate for deputy to the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, General of the Army V. M. Shabanov, deputy USSR minister of defense.

The meeting was opened by M. I. Shatokhina, first secretary of the Leninskiy Rayon party committee.

Participants in the meeting observed a minute of silence in memory of Yu. V. Andropov.

Representing the candidate for deputy, O. I. Lutokhina, a fitter for the Vibropribor Production Association, reviewed V. M. Shabanov's career and professional and public activities and called upon voters to give their unanimous support to representatives of the communist-nonparty bloc.

Among others speaking at the meeting were Ye. P. Buts, party committee secretary of the Mikroprovod Scientific-Production Association, P. D. Ogurtsov, arc welder

for the Mold. prodmontazh trust and M. K. Bologa, director of the Moldavian SSR Academy of Sciences' Institute of Applied Physics. They declared that the Soviet people are now living under the continuing influence of decisions of the December (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenum and the 9th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. They have unanimously endorsed the decisions of the February (1984) CPSU Central Committee plenum, which unanimously elected Comrade K. U. Chernenko general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Addressing those gathered for the meeting was V. M. Shabanov. We can all see, he declared, how beneficial have been the steps the party has recently taken to improve the management of our socialist economy, tighten organization and discipline and increase the efficiency and responsibility of personnel. Rates of economic growth have increased; output of industrial and agricultural production has risen; our rail transport system has begun to function more efficiently and the real income of our people has risen. In a word, we can actually see the changes for the better which have occurred in all spheres of our life.

The course the party has charted has received the full approval and support of the entire Soviet people. The most important thing now is to insure that we do not lose our momentum, our generally positive orientation toward this effort and intensify the development of these positive processes. The success we achieve will depend to a decisive degree upon the creativity with which our people approach the responsibilities with which they have been charged, upon their initiative and discipline and the intensification of socialist competition in all spheres of our national economy. Of enormous significance in this connection is the concrete objective the party has set for our production managers, party, trade union and Komsomol organizations and all working collectives of achieving a 1-per cent increase in labor productivity over and above what the plan calls for and an additional 0.5-per cent reduction in production costs.

The speaker discussed at length some of the remarkable achievements our people now have to their credit in all spheres of our economic and cultural life and in the implementation of our social program. He also called attention to the worthy contribution being made to the effort to implement party plans and to meet Eleventh-Five-Year-Plan targets by the working people of Kishinev, whose success in 1983 has again won them the Red Challenge Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee.

The deputy USSR minister of defense spoke highly of the record achieved in combat and political training by the troops of the Kishinev garrison. The garrison is now in a period of intensive combat training, he pointed out. The troops are successfully mastering the military art and striving consistently to develop their mastery of the modern weapons and equipment they have as the result of the selfless labors of our workers, designers, engineers and scientists.

Our party and Komsomol organizations, labor collectives around the city and our war and labor veterans are of great assistance in our military training program. I can declare with complete confidence that in meeting requirements imposed by the party, the government and the ministry of defense, the troops of the Kishinev garrison will intensify efforts to increase combat readiness and vigilance and develop their mastery of military skills.

V. M. Shabanov then dwelled at some length upon some of the foreign policy questions our party and the Soviet Government are dealing with. They are resolutely and consistently pursuing a program of peace, he declared. The central objective of Soviet foreign policy is to infuse greater unity and solidarity into the socialist community in all areas—politics, economics, ideology, international activities and defense. The growing strength of socialism, progress in economic development, science and technology as well as the evolution of a balance of forces between the two systems in the military-strategic sphere have made it possible to disrupt plans to unleash another war and, at one time, to progress toward a relaxation of tensions. For it has in fact been thanks to the USSR and the fraternal socialist countries that the world has been spared the horrors of world war for the past 40 years or so now.

The Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community are focusing their efforts primarily upon eliminating the threat of nuclear war, extricating mankind from the arms race imperialism has forced it into and insuring the triumph of the Leninist principles of peaceful coexistence and mutually advantageous co-operation between states with different social systems.

As is generally known, the USSR has recently taken new steps toward peace and put forward a number of important new, constructive proposals designed to secure peace and increase national security. The peace policy the Soviet Union pursues is a product of the very nature of the Soviet system. Each passing day underlines the truth of Lenin's statement that our peace policy wins the approval of the overwhelming majority of the people on Earth. There is now no question of any international significance whatsoever which can be resolved without the participation of the Soviet Union.

The aggressive nature of imperialism, however, has not changed. The reactionary, militaristic forces of the U.S. and NATO have recently launched upon a course of increasing international tension, intensifying the arms race, a course of issuing threats, interfering in affairs besides their own, a course of direct aggression. American imperialism has set itself the objective of achieving military superiority over the USSR and the countries of the Warsaw Treaty with the aim of winning world domination for itself, dictating its conditions to us and, ultimately, of liquidating socialism as a system.

The recent USSR Supreme Soviet decree "The International Situation and the Foreign Policy of the Soviet Government" declares that, in violation of the U.N. Charter and the norms of international law, the imperialist states are now coming forward with pretensions to the right to order other countries around, to appropriate the natural resources of other countries for their own use and to dictate their will to the peoples of Asia, Africa and Central America. A quick glance at a political map of the world is enough to show us the magnitude of the threat the criminal actions of the current U.S. administration pose to other peoples. The sufferings of the peoples of Chile, El Salvador and Namibia, the bloody orgies of the Israeli occupiers in Lebanon, the U.S. provocations against revolutionary Cuba and Nicaragua, the predatory attack upon defenseless Grenada—this by no means exhausts the list of black deeds perpetrated by the Pentagon and the CIA.

The U.S. is allocating enormous amounts in material and financial resources to support its aggressive, adventuristic policies. The U.S. and the other countries of

NATO are carrying out a long-term program of both modernizing and developing new types of conventional weapons, particularly weapons of high accuracy. In their efforts to achieve military superiority over us they are banking first of all on being able to technological superiority over our weaponry. The deployment of Pershings and cruise missiles at our very doorstep is a brazen move on the part of the American administration with the objective of establishing its capability of destroying our strategic facilities within only minimum amounts of time.

Noone should ever entertain the slightest doubt, however, that the objectives of this aggressive, adventuristic U.S. policy are not destined to be realized. Our people have strong nerves, and their Armed Forces are capable of dealing a crushing blow to any aggressor.

The USSR Supreme Soviet has appealed to the ruling circles of the U.S. and NATO to abandon their peace-threatening policy of "...from a position of strength" and their attempts to achieve military superiority. Just as we always have, we stand today for the establishment of good relations, a relationship in which each partner enjoys equal rights, and for businesslike cooperation with all countries and peoples. Our love of peace, however, has never been a sign of any weakness on our part. The Soviet Union is always prepared to employ all its authority and all its economic and defensive strength to repel any attempt to infringe the security of the motherland or her friends and allies. Our country's defensive strength has been and remains a critical factor in efforts to bridle aggressors and maintain peace on Earth.

Questions concerning the state and development of our Armed Forces and their equipment and organizational structure or the training and education provided their personnel are matters receiving the continuous attention of the CPSU Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo. The Soviet Armed Forces now present the picture of a modern, well-trained army provided with the latest in weapons and equipment, a powerful fighting organization, unified by the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, ennobled by their mission of rendering selfless service to their country and the cause of defending the achievements of October. High levels of equipment, thorough mastery of military skills and aggressive fighting spirit have always been and remain today the hallmarks of our Armed Forces. If required, they are capable of accomplishing their mission on land, in the air and at sea to destroy any aggressor.

Along with all the rest of our people, the members of our Armed Forces are linking all their successes, all their achievements, all their plans for the future with the activities of the Communist Party. They see in its leadership a most important source of the strength and invincibility of the USSR Armed Forces and a guarantee that they will continue their vigilant maintenance of the security of our motherland and stand as reliable bulwark of peace and national security.

In conclusion, V. M. Shabanov expressed his gratitude to his listeners for the honor they had given him and assured them he would continue to devote all his efforts to justify the great trust the voters had placed in him.

Also participating in the meeting were N. V. Merenishchev, second secretary of the central committee of the Communist Party of Moldavia, V. K. Kiktenko, first secretary of the Kishinev city party committee, P. I. Shapa, deputy chairman of the Moldavian SSR council of ministers, and V. F. Semenov, chairman of the executive committee of the Kishinev city council of people's deputies.

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 18 Feb 84 p 3

[Speeches by A. V. Betekhtin in Rezekne and A. Yu. Ishlinskiy in Yurmala: "Toward Peace and Productivity"]

[Text] In the run-up to elections to the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, representatives of work collectives throughout Rezekne electoral district No. 712 gathered in the Rezekne House of Culture to hear Lieutenant General A. V. Betekhtin, commander of the Red Banner Baltic Military District, their candidate for deputy.

The meeting was opened by N. I. Gusev, first secretary of the Rezekne party city committee.

Speaking for the candidate for deputy, A. Ya. Kolesnikov, a representative from the Rezekne Transport Association, reviewed the life and career of A. V. Betekhtin.

Also speaking at the meeting were A. A. Babris, military commissar with the Rezekne military commissariat, and Z. Ye. Khudoleyeva, secretary of the primary party organization of the trade administration. They underlined the fact that in these days leading up to the elections the workers were putting forth their utmost effort in an intensive drive to implement decisions of the December (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenum, tasks Comrade K. U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, set in his speech at the extraordinary February plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

Addressing those gathered for this meeting was Lieutenant General A. V. Betekhtin, commander of the Red Banner Baltic Military District. He observed that, because of actions taken by ultrareactionary imperialist forces, the international situation had deteriorated seriously. Our country, our peace program and our consistent foreign policy course oriented toward relaxation of tensions, a course reconfirmed at the February CPSU Central Committee plenum—these represent the hope and guarantee of peace.

A. V. Betekhtin thanked voters for the high honor they had bestowed upon him and assured them that he would justify their confidence in him and would continue to devote himself unflaggingly to the task of increasing the combat readiness of troops of the Red Banner Baltic Military District.

Representatives of work collectives met in Yurmala to hear the candidate for deputy to the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet from Yurmala electoral district No. 320, A. Yu. Ishlinskiy, director of the USSR Academy of Sciences' Institute of Problems in Mechanics and chairman of the All-Union Council of Scientific and Technical Societies.

The meeting was opened by N. Yu. Usin', first secretary of the Yurmala city party committee.

Speaking for the candidate for deputy, I. T. Yegorov, senior pulp cooker at the Slokskiy Pulp and Paper Works and Meritorious Industrial Worker of the Latvian SSR, and I. Ya. Selga, physician at the Baltiya sanatorium and party organization

secretary, presented a detailed review of the life and career of A. Yu. Ishlinskiy and called upon voters on election day to vote for candidates of the inseparable communist-nonparty bloc.

Also speaking at the meeting were E. R. Gorloshonok, fish processor for Uzvara Fishing Kolkhoz, and M. G. Malkiel', Meritorious Physician of the Latvian SSR, senior physician at Yaunkemeri sanatorium. They underlined the fact that the effort of communists, as well as of all working people of the health resort city of Yurmala has been directed from the very beginning of the year toward achieving higher rates of economic growth and insuring efficient utilization of existing capacities and reserves to strengthen the economy and improve services. This, moreover, is the subject of the CPSU Central Committee's appeal to all voters and citizens of the Soviet Union and the objective of decisions of the extraordinary February CPSU Central Committee plenum and the speech delivered on this occasion by Comrade K. U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Speakers at the meeting also gave their enthusiastic approval to the judicious domestic and foreign policies of the CPSU and its Leninist Central Committee.

A. Yu. Ishlinskiy then addressed the audience. He thanked voters warmly for the great confidence they had shown in him and assured them he would justify this confidence with honor.

8963

CSO: 1801/243

MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

ADMIRAL SOROKIN ON DEFENSE, ARMED FORCES

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 22 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Admiral Aleksey Ivanovich Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy: "The Mighty Guard of Socialism"]

[Text] Sixty-six years separate us from the time when the armed forces of the first socialist country in the world were born in the fierce battles against the foreign interventionists and white guards.

Vladimir Ilich Lenin stood among the sources of their creation. He signed the decree on organizing the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army and the Workers' and Peasants' Red Navy. Red Army Day was established to commemorate the beginning of mobilization of workers in defense of the soviet republic and the feat accomplished by Red Army troops in fighting with the regular, well-trained and well-equipped forces of imperialist Germany.

On this day our nation and Soviet soldiers turn to the USSR Armed Forces' glorious history which is inseparably linked with the name of Lenin and the activities of the communist party.

We speak with admiration about those who wrote the first lines of the heroic biography of the Soviet Army and Navy under incredibly difficult conditions for the motherland. These were the intrepid soldiers of the revolution and the fighting men of exceptional boldness and courage. The nation immortalized their feats in songs, stories and legends. The heroes of Narva and Pskov, Petrograd and Tsaritsyn, Kakhovka and Perekop, and Volochayevka and Spassk serve until the present time too as an example of the unbending revolutionary spirit and the courage and loyalty to the motherland.

The unparalleled feat of the Soviet people and the armed forces of the USSR in the Great Patriotic War will live for ages. In accordance with the call of the communist party, the Soviet people one and all rose to the defense of the motherland.

The universal and historical victory of the Soviet Union over fascist Germany and militarist Japan once again demonstrated the superiority of the socialist system, which was born of the October Revolution, over capitalism and it showed

the life-giving strength of Marxist-Leninist teaching. It confirmed the words of V. I. Lenin that one will never conquer a nation which upholds its power and its future and which has a tried and tested leader and executive--the communist party.

The victories in the civil war and the Great Patriotic War are convincing evidence of the invincible fighting strength of the Soviet Army and Navy, as well as of the failure of imperialism's aggressive designs, and they are a formidable warning to everyone who bears delirious plans for world supremacy.

Now these calculations are even more bankrupt and groundless than ever before. And at the same time, today they undoubtedly represent a great danger. The president of the United States declared a "crusade" against socialism and is fighting for its destruction as a social and political system.

The American Administration is trying to break the strategic military balance which has taken shape in the world. The military budget of the United States is increasing constantly. This year it is 280 billion dollars and in fiscal year 1985 it is planned to spend over 320 billion dollars for military purposes. The scope of American army exercises, which more and more are turning into a rehearsal for unleashing their soldiers, is growing.

New countries are being drawn into the orbit of military preparations. While playing the role of the world's policeman, American imperialism is blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of other states, is committing robbery in Grenada and Lebanon, and is crudely violating the norms of international law and human morality.

The deployment in Europe of new American medium range missiles, which are a first strike weapon, are a particular danger for the matter of peace. Never yet in the postwar period has the situation in the world arena been so tense. However, in the ruling circles of the United States and NATO they maintain that "nothing dangerous is happening" in the world.

But one cannot deceive humanity. Whatever adventures were undertaken in the West and whatever monstrous plans for "limited nuclear war" and "preemptive strikes" were nurtured, nobody can reverse the course of history. The USSR and other socialist countries will live and be developed in accordance with their laws--the laws of the most progressive social system. The guarantee for this is the invincible might of the armed forces of the USSR and the armies of the states of the socialist commonwealth.

While utilizing the enormous advantages of socialism, the communist party and the Soviet people are constantly strengthening the economic and defensive might of the USSR. During recent years, radical changes have occurred in the technical equipment of the army and the navy. In the course of 10 to 15 years in our armed forces, 2 to 3 generations of missiles have been replaced and a considerable portion of the inventory of combat aircraft, submarines and surface ships has been renovated. The structural organization of troops and naval forces is constantly being improved. Military science and the art of war are being developed.

The Soviet Union revoked its commitment not to deploy medium range missiles in the European part of the USSR in response to the deployment of American "Pershing-2" and cruise missiles in the FRG, England and Italy. Preparatory operations were accelerated in agreement with the governments of the GDR and the CSSR for deploying increased range operational tactical missiles on the territory of these countries. Appropriate Soviet means will be deployed in the ocean regions and the seas. According to their performance characteristics--range, power, accuracy and flight time--they are adequate to the threat which the American missiles in Europe are creating for us and our allies.

The Soviet people, the fighting men of the army and the navy, and our friends and allies unanimously approve and support these obligatory measures.

At a special CPSU Central Committee plenum, once again it was stressed that our party adheres to the principle bequeathed by Lenin of the peaceful coexistence of states with a different social system and of striving to do everything possible to preserve and strengthen peace and to protect humanity from the threat of nuclear war. At the same time, it was firmly stated at the plenum that the Soviet Union will not allow a break up of the military balance which has been attained. General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade K. U. Chernenko said: "In the future we will also take care of strengthening the defensive capability of our country so that we will have sufficient means with the aid of which it is possible to cool the hot heads of the militant adventurers."

The main source of the might of the Soviet armed forces and the most important condition for the reliable protection of the achievements of socialism are in the guidance of the CPSU. Thanks to the concern of the communist party and the Soviet government, the combat potential of the armed forces of the USSR today is a solid fusion of a high level of technical equipment, military skill and an invincible moral spirit.

Army and navy personnel are distinguished by high general education training and outstanding moral, political and combat qualities. Almost all military service personnel have a higher, secondary and incomplete secondary school education, and 70 percent of the officers have higher military and special military training. Among the soldiers more than 90 percent are communists and Komsomol members.

Our young people undergo basic military training before going into army or navy service. DOSAAF plays a large role in the military and patriotic upbringing of youth and trains them for defending the motherland. DOSAAF of the USSR is a reliable assistant and reserve of the Soviet armed forces. Today every third draftee is undergoing technical and military training in its educational organizations.

While expressing gratitude to party and soviet organs, the Leninist Komsomol and DOSAAF for training youth for military service, commanders and political workers and party and Komsomol organizations of the army and the navy are tirelessly strengthening ties with the collectives of industrial enterprises, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, institutions and educational institutions, and cultural, educational and creative organizations. The invincible unity of our army and people finds graphic manifestation in this.

The soldiers of the 1980's demonstrate a fervent love for the socialist motherland and an inviolable loyalty to their constitutional and international duty. The successes of personnel of the limited contingent of Soviet forces in Afghanistan are indicative of their training, courage and selflessness. Many Soviet soldiers were awarded high decorations of the motherland for model execution of tasks posed in time of peace and for assistance to the Afghan people in defending the achievements of the April revolution. Lieutenant Colonels Ye. Zel'nyakov, Yu. Kuznetsov and V. Shcherbakov; Majors S. Kozlov, R. Aushev and G. Kuchkin; Captain N. Akramov and others became Heroes of the Soviet Union.

Today the sons and grandsons of the front-line soldiers are in the ranks of the defenders of the motherland. They are continuing the race of selfless service to the motherland and increasing the glorious combat traditions of our armed forces. In the course of intense winter training under conditions which approximate combat ones as much as possible, personnel are tirelessly improving field, air and sea training and are assiduously mastering weapons and equipment entrusted to them and skills for conducting modern combat. Socialist competition was widely promoted in units and on ships under the motto "be on the alert and in constant readiness to defend the achievements of socialism!" and preparations are spreading for a worthy 40th anniversary celebration of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War from 1941 to 1945.

The armed forces of the USSR together with the armies of the fraternal countries are fulfilling a great historical mission by defending the achievements of socialism, restraining the imperialist aggressors and frustrating their designs which are dangerous for all of humanity.

Army and navy fighting men, who closely and solidly support the Communist Party, its Central Committee and the Central Committee's Politburo and who are infinitely devoted to the ideals of communism, are performing their sacred duty to the motherland with honor and are doing everything in order to justify the confidence of the party and the people.

9889

CSO: 1801/246

ARMED FORCES

KOVTUNOV, YAZOV PRESENTATIONS ON ARMY, NAVY DAY

Kovtunov Presentation

Frunze SOVETSKAYA KIRGIZIYA in Russian 23 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Lt Gen A. V. Kovtunov, first deputy commander of Red Banner Central Asian Military District: "Powerful Guardian of Peace and Socialism"]

[Text] Today the Soviet people and all progressive mankind solemnly celebrate the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces. Born of the October Revolution and created by the will of the Communist Party, they have carried their banners with honor and glory through the flame of very fierce battles and through the most severe ordeals of war. The Soviet Army and Navy earned the fervent love and gratitude of our country's nations. Back at the dawn of Soviet power Vladimir Il'ich Lenin directed: "And this Army is called upon to protect the revolution's achievements, our people's power, soviets of soldiers', workers' and peasants' deputies, and the entire new and genuinely democratic order against all enemies of the people, who now are using all means to destroy the revolution."

Vigilantly safeguarding the Great October's achievements, the Soviet Army and Navy entered many times into a resolute struggle against the forces of imperialism and always won victory. During the Civil War and foreign military intervention, when the total length of fronts ringing the Soviet republic approached 12,000 km, our soldiers utterly routed the armies of interventionists and White Guards.

Having received a peaceful respite, Soviet citizens under Communist Party direction began carrying out the country's industrialization and agriculture's socialist transformation.

Successes achieved in our country in building socialism sparked bestial hatred in the imperialists. They undertook a number of armed provocations against our country in an attempt to hinder the USSR's peaceful construction in any way, but all were given a resolute rebuff.

Fascist Germany treacherously attacked the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941, throwing against us 190 divisions, more than 47,000 guns and mortars, over

4,000 tanks and assault guns, some 5,000 aircraft and 192 warships. At the very beginning of the war Soviet troops fought the cunning, strong enemy courageously, mauling his elite divisions. The defenders of Brest, Peremyshl, Libava, Mogilev, Smolensk, Leningrad, Odessa, Sevastopol and Kiev displayed unparalleled heroism, staunchness and courage in the first days of the stern ordeal.

The fascists tried to take Moscow at all costs, but the Soviet people and their Red Army defended the capital and the Hitlerites suffered their first major defeat here. The myth of the invincibility of fascist German forces thus was dispelled. The Rezhitsa Order of Lenin, Red Banner, Order of Suvorov Guards Rifle Division imeni HSU Maj Gen I. V. Panfilov, activated from representatives of Kirghizia and Kazakhstan, made a worthy contribution toward winning this victory.

Twenty-eight Panfilov heroes held back the attack of 50 enemy tanks on the approaches to Moscow at the Dubosekovo siding. The title of HSU was conferred on the brave soldiers (almost all posthumously). Among the participants in this exploit were Kirghizstan soldiers Duyshenkul Shopokov, Nikolay Anan'yev, Grigoriy Konkin, Ivan Moskalenko and others.

Soviet soldiers fought a hard fight south of Voronezh in August 1942. Fire from an enemy earth-and-timber emplacement hindered their successful advance, and Komsomol Member Cholponbay Tuleberdiyev displayed exceptional heroism in this situation. He crawled up to the weapon emplacement and covered the firing slit with his body, repeating the immortal exploit of Aleksandr Matrosov. Tuleberdiyev, the courageous soldier from Kirghizia, was awarded the title of HSU posthumously.

The Motherland's defenders of the 1980's worthily bear the baton of heroes of the Civil and Great Patriotic wars, as shown by the high evaluation of the USSR Armed Forces given by our party and the Soviet government. At a meeting between the USSR Minister of Defense leaders and Armed Forces veterans, CPSU Central Committee Politburo Member, USSR Minister of Defense Mar SU D. F. Ustinov remarked that our Army and Navy have risen to a qualitatively higher level allowing them to accomplish combat missions with great reliability.

True to the heroic traditions of our Army and our people and when required by the security interests of the Soviet Union and countries of the socialist community, Soviet soldiers stand before the world as selfless, courageous patriots and internationalists who are ready to overcome all difficulties.

U.S. ruling circles increased military pressure on socialism and on the national liberation movement by spreading the myth of the "Soviet military threat." They are attempting to confer on themselves the "right" to command some and "punish" others. Normal interstate intercourse is being replaced by "sanctions," "blockade" and direct armed aggression. U.S. ruling circles see the chief obstacle in this adventuristic course to be above all the Soviet Union and the socialist community. This is why President Reagan proclaimed a "crusade" against the USSR and other socialist states.

In this difficult international situation the CPSU and Soviet state consider their very first duty to be a consistent defense of the cause of peace, the display of self-control and vigilance, a decisive disruption of imperialism's adventuristic plans, and a strengthening of national defense might. "And let no one be left with the slightest doubt that we will continue to see to it that our country's defense capability is strengthened and that we have sufficient means with which to cool the hot-heads of the bellicose adventurists," was what CPSU CC General Secretary, Comrade K. U. Chernenko emphasized at the Extraordinary February CPSU Central Committee Plenum.

Our personnel are celebrating the holiday of Soviet Army and Navy Day with new successes in mastering the modern, sophisticated combat equipment and weapons. By their selfless military labor they make a worthy contribution toward improving our Motherland's defense capability.

Service personnel of the Red Banner Central Asian Military District purposefully and persistently accomplish difficult operational training missions in these days. Having joined in socialist competition under the motto "Be on guard, in constant readiness to defend socialism's achievements!" they constantly perfect professional expertise.

Results of the first months of the winter training period indicate that our district's personnel are full of resolve to worthily fulfill this year's pledges. Motorized riflemen of the subunits commanded by captains M. Kozhaakhmetov and A. Mamyrkulov and Sr Lt A. Androsenko are greeting Soviet Army and Navy Day with outstanding results. Party members, and among them Kirghizstan resident Sr Lt T. Kalybekov are setting the tone in the struggle for attaining high indicators in combat and political training. He has mastered equipment and weapons to perfection and diligently passes on his knowledge and practical skills to young soldiers.

Personnel of the famed Division imeni HSU Maj Gen I. V. Panfilov vigilantly safeguard the October Revolution's achievements. With their daily military work they augment the frontlinesmen's glory and make a substantial contribution toward improving our Motherland's combat readiness.

The address of the CPSU Central Committee to all electors and citizens of the USSR gave new impetus to the personnel's activeness and initiative. "Personnel of the Soviet Army and Navy! The party and people call upon you to steadily improve your combat proficiency and schooling and persistently master formidable weapons and modern equipment. Worthily perform the sacred duty to the Motherland and always be on guard!" states the document of great political importance.

Yazov Presentation

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Army Gen D. Yazov, commander of Red Banner Central Asian Military District: "Today is Soviet Army and Navy Day: Reliable Guardian of the Homeland"]

[Text] Today Soviet citizens, our friends abroad and everyone who cherishes peace on earth celebrate the 66th anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces. Soviet Army and Navy Day is a national holiday and we celebrate it today in a setting where Soviet citizens are implementing with enormous enthusiasm the historic resolutions of the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. The preparation for elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet generated a new surge of political and labor activeness. The socialist Motherland's armed defenders stand vigilantly on guard over the Soviet people's peaceful, creative labor. They are always on guard, ready to offer a crushing rebuff to any aggressor and to perform their constitutional duty with honor.

Like all Soviet people, Army and Navy personnel unanimously support and fervently approve the resolutions of the Extraordinary February CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the assessments and conclusions contained in the speech there by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade K. U. Chernenko.

The proletariat and the Communist Party were faced with the question of military defense of the socialist state immediately after the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution. It was necessary to create an army of workers and peasants for this purpose. A new type of regular army, the Soviet Army, originated in a very short time in the flame of armed struggle against the enemy's numerous and well-trained forces.

Sixty-six years have gone by since the day the first lines of courage and valor were entered in the heroic annals of the Soviet Armed Forces. Fearless soldiers of the Revolution were an example of unbending will and allegiance to duty. The farther that 23 February of the stern year of 1918 departs from us, the deeper one comprehends the fundamental proposition advanced by V. I. Lenin that "any revolution is worthwhile only if it is able to defend itself."

The fame of just-activated Red Army regiments and divisions was born in the flame of battle. At that time the Red Army had no experience of conducting combat actions, no trained command cadres, and it lacked weapons, ammunition, food and clothing. Despite everything, our Army defeated the White Guards and foreign interventionists.

The units [chast' and soyedineniye] which fought in Kazakhstan wrote vivid pages in the history of the Red Army and Civil War. Relying on help and support from this area's workers, they defended Soviet authority here. For example, fighting men and commanders of the 22d Rifle Division who defended Uralsk staunchly for almost three months fearlessly defeated the revolution's enemies. Vladimir Il'ich Lenin highly esteemed their heroic deeds. In his words, the city's defenders set an example of dedication to the revolution's

cause. Units of the 25th Division commanded by legendary military leader V. I. Chapayev smashed the White Guards who had encircled Uralsk and lifted the siege of the city.

National formations including the Kazakh Cavalry Brigade took an active part in the fighting. The military leadership talent of M. V. Frunze was displayed here on the territory of Kazakhstan and Central Asia to the full extent. D. A. Furmanov set fire to the people with the fiery words of the political fighter. Many heroes of Semirechye wrote their names in history in golden letters, among them A. Dzhangil'din, A. Imanov, L. P. Yemelev and many others.

Having won the battle against world imperialism, the Soviet people had an opportunity to begin building a new society, and our Motherland was transformed into a mighty socialist power in a historically short period of time.

The Red Army grew strong and developed together with the rest of the country. Its reorganization and technical reoutfitting was in full swing. The world's first state of workers and peasants and its Armed Forces became a reliable bulwark and stronghold of nations in the struggle for peace. After entering the territory of Mongolia in the summer of 1921 at the request of the Mongolian People's Government, Red Army troops together with units of Sukhe-Bator and Choybalsan crushed the numerous White Guard bands. Our soldiers came to the help of the Mongol brothers in 1939 as well, when militarist Japan unleashed militarist actions against the MNR [Mongolian People's Republic].

The indestructibility of the Armed Forces, embodying the monolithic solidarity of Soviet nations, was displayed to the full extent in the Great Patriotic War. Fascist Germany's treacherous attack interrupted the Soviet people's peaceful labor and again, as in the Civil War, the tested party of communists headed the Soviet people's struggle for our Motherland's freedom and independence. The country was turned into a single, mighty battle camp under the motto "Everything for the front, everything for victory!"

Soviet people young and old rose up to defend the Motherland, with only one desire: to defeat the enemy and drive him from our sacred soil. Our border outposts, strongpoints and entire cities fought the foe with unprecedented determination and courage. We call the fearless defenders of the Brest Fortress a personification of courage, staunchness and heroism. In the fiery year of 1941 the fortress was stormed by the elite 45th Infantry Division, consisting of Hitler's countrymen. It was the first to enter Warsaw and Paris and had been directed by the Fuehrer to open the first parade in the first Russian city as well. But after a monthlong siege of the Brest citadel the division ended up being reformed instead of parading.

The multinational Soviet people rose up to fight the invaders. More than 300 soldiers of different nationalities repeated Aleksandr Matrosov's exploit, and among them the Ukrainian Aleksandr Shevchenko, Belorussian Prokopi Avramkov, Kazakh Sultan Baymagambetov, Kirghiz Cholponbay Tuleberdiyev, Uzbek Tuychi Erdzhigitov and many others. The Soviet soldiers' allegiance to the grand combat tradition of mass heroism was vividly confirmed in the stern war years. More than 11,000 Soviet soldiers received the title of HSU, and among them were 500 Kazakhstan residents.

The 316th Rezhitsa Order of Lenin, Red Banner, Order of Suvorov Rifle (now Guards Motorized Rifle) Division imeni HSU Maj Gen I. V. Panfilov, activated in Kazakhstan and Kirghizia in 1941, won immortal glory in the fighting. The exploit by personnel of the 4th Company commanded by Politruk Vasiliy Georgiyevich Klochkov was immortal. The 28 Panfilov men stood to the death in defending our Motherland's capital. The high title of HSU was conferred on all of them.

Rear area toilers made a substantial contribution to victory. The republic's workers wrote in their letter to the Kazakhstan soldiers: "Let all fighting men know that nine out of ten of all bullets you fire on the enemy were cast in Kazakhstan." In those difficult years the republic was one of the Motherland's chief raw-material and food bases. Some 733,000 tons of meat alone were supplied to the front in the war years and the country received some 360 million poods of bread and many other agricultural products. "A comrade has departed for the front--work for him!" was the motto of Kazakhstan residents both at the machine tool and behind the plow.

In celebrating Soviet Army and Navy Day today, our country offers a tribute of deep respect to those who carried enormous burdens of war on their shoulders. The glory of our Armed Forces, obtained at a high cost in battles against the enemy, never will fade.

The wounds of battle healed long ago and the Motherland is confidently heading along the path toward communism. Soviet soldiers are reliably protecting the Soviet people's peaceful labor.

The personnel of units and subunits of the Red Banner Central Asian Military District are successfully performing all missions facing them, as attested by achievements in combat and political training, in the increased level of combat readiness, and in a further strengthening of discipline, efficiency and order. A number of district units were awarded the USSR Minister of Defense Pennant for Courage and Military Valor and based on the last training year's results the missile unit commanded by Col Yu. Popov was declared best in the Ground Forces. By their selfless military labor Central Asian military personnel are proving that there is place for an exploit even in peacetime. The grand deeds by HSU's officers V. Kot, V. Shcherbakov, N. Akramov and N. Shornikov are proof of this.

Brought up in a spirit of brotherhood and friendship of USSR nations, district military personnel personify indestructible unity with republic workers. They always are ready to come to the residents' help as was the case in 1973 when Alma-Ata was threatened by a mud flow and when forest fires raged in East Kazakhstan. Each year the district's military drivers participate in bringing in the harvest, setting examples of selflessness on the virgin fields.

Strong patron ties of Central Asian military personnel with labor collectives and with educational and cultural enlightenment establishments contribute to a strengthening of the military-patriotic indoctrination of young people and their preparation for Army duty. After going through a good life's school of ideological indoctrination, self-control and discipline during their service,

reserve soldiers become production leaders, worthily continue combat traditions in labor, and give their all to increasing their beloved Motherland's economic might.

For 60 years the Soviet Armed Forces have defended the socialist homeland reliably. Warmed by nationwide love, Army and Navy personnel deeply perceive the responsibility placed on the Motherland's armed defenders. The international situation has become more complicated today than ever before through the fault of U.S. imperialists and the arms race has taken a new spiral. The stationing of American medium-range missiles on the territory of Western Europe has begun despite what the people want. Under such conditions the answering steps of the Communist Party and Soviet government are unusually timely.

District personnel support these steps wholly and fully. They are rallying even closer about the Leninist CPSU Central Committee and demonstrating unbending resolve to improve vigilance and combat readiness steadfastly.

This is manifested especially vividly during socialist competition under the motto "Be on guard and in constant readiness to defend socialism's achievements!" Personnel of the Vyborg Order of Kutuzov Motorized Rifle Regiment (commanded by Lt Col N. Petruk), of the fighter-bomber regiment commanded by Lt Col A. Sevast'yanov, and of the surface-to-air missile unit commanded by Lt Col V. Zemlyanskiy have attained high indicators. The movement by military personnel under the motto "A higher level of mastery for new equipment!" has gained new scope. Among competition leaders are officers G. Sil'chenkov, A. Markov and V. Musatov, WO [Praporshchik] K. Iskakov, Sr Sgt I. Shodiyev, sergeants D. Kharitonov, A. Vavilov and K. Tostokov, privates K. Zharmagambetov, V. Polyakov, A. Orzhanov and many others. Like all Central Asian Military District personnel, these servicemen expertly handle first-rate equipment and are persistently learning to act in the most difficult situation.

The CPSU CC address to all USSR electors and citizens generated a new surge of political and labor activeness in district personnel, as it did in all Soviet citizens. Soldiers took the party call to steadily improve their combat proficiency and schooling, persistently master formidable weapons and modern equipment, and be always on guard as a combat program of action. In the difficult international situation district personnel are responding with an even closer solidarity about the Leninist party and with an increase in vigilance and combat readiness. They are ready to offer a crushing rebuff to any aggressor and fulfill their patriotic and international duty with honor.

6904

CSO: 1801/260

ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIZED TRAINING TECHNIQUES PROVE EFFECTIVE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Capt V. Aron: "Under Individual Plans"]

[Text] The practice by launcher teams was in full swing when a new field problem was presented about the "enemy" using chemical weapons. Only a slight pause occurred in the personnel's actions, lasting exactly as long as it took to put on individual antichemical protective gear, then the combat work quickly picked up the previous fixed rhythm.

This is generally a very familiar picture. I have had repeated occasion to observe the skillful, cohesive actions by launcher personnel, who usually are capable of bettering the norms, both in ordinary scheduled classes and at the range in the immediate performance of firings. But that was the case when the teams were made up of well trained specialists who had numerous intensive, difficult special tactical exercises behind them. This, however, was a different case: novices who quite recently came to the subunit as replacements were working side by side with experienced missilemen. Concern for their most rapid introduction to formation became a matter of primary importance in the new training year for the battery commander, Gds Sr Lt N. Maslov.

It cannot be said that Maslov's predecessor, assigned to another position, passed on a backward subunit to him, but there were obvious flaws in the specialists' training. Some of them would make a typical mistake in competing zealously for bettering the norms: in the pursuit of time they showed no particular concern for quality in performing the operations. As a result each person would make mistakes reflecting on the others as he seemingly functioned rapidly on his own. A few months ago there was a decisive struggle against such deficiencies.

Previously the direction of practice with all teams was made the responsibility of one battery officer and one or two norms would be practiced by the multiple repetition method. It would turn out that the team under the officer's supervision would function to its utmost while the other teams would sometimes work unenthusiastically.

The subunit put an end to the previous practice methodology. A simple and reliable solution was found: special training classes began to be held not at one training area, but at several, and on different lessons. Subordinate officers--Gds Sr Lt A. Abramov and Gds Lt A. Dulepov--would be used for this together with the battery commander. The gain was apparent in all respects, as the saying goes. Class intensity rose; now several norms were practiced in the times allotted. In addition, every specialist was in the public eye and mistakes they would make could be seen clearly and promptly, which means they were remedied faster and more vigorously. Finally, the leaders themselves now had an opportunity to prepare better for the classes because the range of lessons to be practiced at a particular training site had been narrowed noticeably.

By the way, this method considerably increased the officers' responsibility. For example, while that same Gds Sr Lt Abramov previously would sometimes speed up the team's work to the detriment of quality, now special attention was given specifically to the precision of the specialists' actions. That is what Gds Lt Dulepov did as well. Of course, it was not easy or simple to get the desired results. It was necessary to set about remedying deficiencies in the team's training.

Individual plans for the specialists' training comprised the basis of thoughtful work with each specialist. The battery commander drew up a detailed procedure for fulfilling norms with a successive build-up of skills and he determined the time for mastering various elements. Such charts were handed out to all the personnel and became a good aid for self-monitoring. Now they were precluded from getting ahead of themselves by forcing mastery of the program. Specialist skills became firmer, which had an effect on interworking within the teams.

For example, the team commanded by Gds Pfc A. Rekin, which now has more than one young private, already is competing with the subordinates of Gds Sgt S. Matveyev in training. It is an honorable matter to be competing with such recognized masters of military affairs: Matveyev demonstrated high schooling on the range and his team earned an outstanding grade for capable actions in field firing.

Then came the next practice. Gds Sr Lt Maslov registered with satisfaction that the team commanded by Gds Pfc Rekin bettered the time norms by 10 percent. The quality was outstanding, but this was last year's level. Now the missilemen had pledged to "better" the norms by 12 percent. The officer held a detailed critique hot on the heels of the past training hour, where he noted the obvious gain, how this was achieved, and where hitches had occurred and for what reason. All of this is important to know in order to arrange the practice more objectively the next time.

The teams exchanged training sites, where they were awaited by new class instructors and the practice of new tasks. During subsequent practice this permits the best specialists' experience to be passed on and the strenuous socialist pledges to be fulfilled confidently.

6904

CSO: 1801/260

ARMED FORCES

UZBEK KOMSOMOL FIRST SECRETARY ON SHORTCOMINGS IN PREPARATION FOR MILITARY

Tashkent YOSH LENINCHI in Uzbek 27 Dec 83 pp 3-4

[Article by B. A. Allamurodov, Uzbekistan LKSM Central Committee First Secretary: "We Are Always Prepared for the Defense of the Homeland"; version carried by YOSH LENINCHI published on basis of abbreviated stenogram]

[Excerpts] The military-patriotic activities during the agitation campaign organized by the Uzbekistan LKSM Central Committee, editorial office of KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA and the Turkestan Military District Political Directorate this spring were an important event. Teachers of military academies and a large group of lecturers consisting of participants in the Great Patriotic War spoke before youths. There was a patriotic reading of "The Young Fighter in the Works of Writers of Uzbekistan." The Turkestan Military District and Tashkent General Forces Commanders Academy imeni V.I. Lenin, and exhibits of museums of the history of units and formations teach young men and women bravery, steadfastness and loyalty to the high ideals of communism. The many oblast, city and rayon committees who discussed at their plenums the state of preparation of youths for service in the USSR Armed Services and the immediate tasks on the basis of the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the VLKSM 19th Congress held to a very correct path.

The work of the Komsomolabadskiy Rayon Komsomol Committee being conducted to raise youth in the spirit of military-patriotism stands out because of their profound analysis and thorough approach. A future officer school has been organized in the rayon, sharpshooter circles are operating and competitions on military-technical types of sport are conducted in good fashion. Individual lessons on academic subjects are organized. As a result of work being appropriately carried out with the cooperation of the rayon military commissariat, organs of people's education and other organizations, 16 representatives of the rayon entered military academies of the country this year. Other such examples are found in other city and rayon Komsomol organizations of Andizhan Oblast.

The taking of entrance exams by our youths of the whole republic in July was followed with excitement. More than a doubling of last year's indicators was achieved. Of those who entered, 841 individuals were representatives of local nationalities, 641 of them Uzbek youths. The number of academies in which our

representatives are being educated was broadened, and the number of pupils entering infantry troop and naval academies increased. There are many representatives from Andizhan, Tashkent and Fergana Oblasts among the students. One hundred fifty-three youths of local nationalities were accepted into the three academies on the territory of our republic. Last year this indicator was only 56 persons, that's all. You yourselves can see what great successes have been achieved.

The Komsomol organizations expended quite a bit of energy and time to select youths to be sent to military academies. However, it cannot be said that all instructions of the republic Komsomol Central Committee 4th Plenum have been successfully fulfilled everywhere. Thirty-nine rayon Komsomol committees, mainly rayons of Karakalpakia and Kashka-Darya, Navoi, Dzhizak, Syr-Darya and Khorezm Oblasts, did not assure nominees' entrance into military academies. For 3 years the rayon Komsomol committees, military commissariats, schools and DOSAAF committees of Amudar'inskiy, Leninabadskiy, Ul'yanovskiy, Usman-Yusupovskiy, Nuratinskiy, Khatyrchinskiy, Voroshiloskiy, Il'ichevskiy, Khavastskiy, Koshkupyrskiy and Yangiarykskiy Rayons have been unable to prepare a single adolescent for entrance into a military academy.

There are vain efforts and false efficiency in the work of the Khodzheyliyskiy Rayon Komsomol Committee which is in the foremost ranks of the Karakalpak Oblast Komsomol Committee from the perspective of selecting youths who wish to become cadets and who have passed the military commission. This is because not one of the 70 boys recommended by this rayon Komsomol committee was accepted into studies. In all, 4,000 school-leavers were not accepted into military academies. Five hundred nominees without excusable causes failed to arrive at the place of entrance for studies. Over 1,000 youths were not permitted into entrance exams because documents were unsatisfactorily completed at military commissariats.

In particular one is alarmed by the insufficient ideological-political tempering of certain youths and their flippant cancellation of their petitions to begin studies. For example, 37 of our representatives did not attend the examinations for entrance into the Ul'yanovsk Guardsman-Tankman Academy and set off for home. They had been given their directions by the Bukhara and Khorezm Oblast Komsomol Committees. Of the 20 school-leavers from Kaskha-Darya Oblast who had gone to enter the Leningrad Naval Radio-Electronics Academy, 15 wrote reports saying they did not wish to study. In searching for the reasons for this, one must note in particular the achieving of high figures through whatever means were necessary, and the irresponsibility of some Komsomol committees which, instead of provision of political-training and organizational work, gave way to spouting pompous words. For example, the Kaganskiy Rayon Komsomol Committee distributed carbon copy recommendations with identical contents to school-leavers. The Samarkand Oblast Bol'shevikskiy Rayon Committee handed youths instructions in a hasty fashion without names written on them. There were very great excess expenditures of funds, energy and time. This was not unnoticed

by many unlucky school-leavers and their families. Now, before moving forward, we must rid ourselves of the negative consequences of these spiritually harmful shortcomings which have been committed. In such a case, the positions of the Syr-Darya, Kashka-Darya, Khorezm and Karakalpak Oblast Komsomol Committees which have still not rendered accounts is incomprehensible.

It is necessary for the next stage of the organizational and propaganda work of Komsomol committees to be accurately planned. It must be planned taking into account the assignment order according to officer specialty. It is extremely important for military commissariats to receive control figures as quickly as possible. It is necessary, in cooperation with the administration of schools, vocational schools and tekhnikums, to identify nominees to military academies by 1 February, and in [the period] February-May to help undertake planned preparation in their military unity base--the future cadets' schools--under the best cabinets of military preparedness. Experienced military training leaders, and teachers of Russian language, physical education and other subjects covered in the exams must be assigned to these youths. It is recommended to confirm reserve officers and Armed Services veterans as heads of "Cadet Schools" and rayon or city Komsomol committee secretaries as their deputies for political affairs. Right away, without hesitation it is necessary to help accomplish proper filling out of documents at military commissariats. It is necessary for all nominees to have an unofficial discussion with secretaries and to be confirmed in city and rayon Komsomol committee bureaus. This measure will increase the authority of our directions and will strengthen the responsibility for the comrades recommended by Komsomol committees. We are requesting the VLKSM Central Committee to help organize presentations by teachers of our country's military academies directly in the audiences of youth of the rayons and cities of our republic in February and March. It will be useful to send teachers of Tashkent city higher education institutions [?and] experienced teachers of mathematics, physics, chemistry and Russian language in March and April to each of the 152 rural rayons to talk with those who have passed the military commissariat commission and to advise them. Such effective help is especially important for youth of local nationalities nominated to military academies who will take entrance exams next year in Tashkent in accordance with the order of the USSR Ministry of Defense. It is necessary for the republic Komsomol Central Committee Department of Sport and Mass Defense Affairs and oblast and city Komsomol committees to form operational staffs, to organize provisional Komsomol organizations of school-leavers and to put political-training affairs into high gear. We await concrete practical proposals on this questions from participants of the above mentioned plenum.

...Along with this, in 215 schools, vocational schools and tekhnikums, the position of leader of military education was vacant, and the number of officers declined. There are quite a few among those working as leader of military education in the educational institutions of Peshkunskiy, Farishskiy, Kitabskiy and other rayons who have not served in the ranks of the Armed Forces.

The Physical Education and Military Preparedness Faculties of Bukhara and Ferghana Pedagogical Institutes have pledged to make a worthy contribution to resolving these problems which have developed. However, one finds little consolation in the analysis of the Komsomol work of those faculties. Meetings

of VLKSM members are held very infrequently and without result. One-third of Komsomol members do not fulfill their public assignments. Students remain aloof from the holding of the "Orlyonok" and "Zarnitsa" games, and are not attracted to the activity of military-sport camps during summer vacation. Because of an absence of firing ranges and places for shooting, almost half of the future leaders of military education have low results on the military-practical types of sports. Due to the slackened internal union and political training affairs of the Bukhara and Ferghana city Komsomol committees, and slackened military preparedness among students, the Komsomol organization secretaries of these higher educational institutions must be asked very strictly [about this] and the dekanat must be provided help in raising the level of educational practice. At the same time, rayon and city Komsomol committees must recommend Komsomol members--junior officers, fighters and those distinguished for political preparedness who showed teaching capabilities and have been released into the reserve, to be active in studies in higher pedagogical education institutions.

One must add the question of boarding schools of the military-sport type--widely discussed after being proposed at the Komsomol Central Committee 4th Plenum--to the list of sensitive questions. Yesterday you were in the republic boarding school with enriched Russian language and military sport preparation. You became acquainted with how the representatives of your oblasts who must acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to enter military academies in 2-3 years are studying and living. Along with noting that the opening of the school was a positive fact, it must be frankly said that since its very first days it has encountered many difficulties. In the words of the tenth grade pupil of Syr-Darya Oblast, Norov, workers of the Komsomol committee said that those who complete the boarding school (Take note of this.) can enter any institute. There are quite a few other problems of this boarding school--shortages of many cadre, textbooks and pieces of equipment. Four months have passed, but Komsomol workers of the capital and organs of people's education of the capital have ignored the situation which has become apparent and are not providing specific help. Due to organizational-economic confusion, the timely opening of a boarding school in Samarkand did not take place. The Komsomol Central Committee Departments of Sport & Mass Defense and Youth Pupils have not defined their role in sponsorship of the educational institutions which are new for us. The Komsomol Central Committee and oblast committees must make the republic military sport boarding schools of the military sport orientation into methodological centers of direction into selecting military careers, and centers for preparation of future Uzbekistani cadets not just in words, but in practice. It is felt that one of the first steps is to introduce a single type of military uniform. It will be necessary for the Komsomol Central Committee, the Ministry of Education and the command of the Turkestan Military District to resolve this jointly.

The military-patriotic training of student youth demands a strengthening of the Komsomol's attention. According to the directive of the USSR Council of Ministers, the deferment of full service of most students of higher educational institutions has been invalidated. In general this directive of the party and government is being fulfilled. However, certain youths are avoiding such a sacred civic obligation as defending the Homeland. Their parents' authority and friendly relations with medical workers and educational institution administrations have been used. And it is just so they will not have to go for military service. And there have also been cases of outright indiscipline.

Such senseless cases must be given a principled appraisal not behind closed doors, but at Komsomol meetings, and the question of VLKSM membership must be placed strictly. There is no room to show any leniency to those who violate civic obligations!

...However, there is no shooting gallery today in 46 percent of the schools, vocational-technical schools and tekhnikums. Two-thirds of the educational institutions have no civil defense classes. Many measures in this direction planned by oblast Komsomol committees do not always make it possible to achieve set goals. For this reason no marksmanship team came to the 1983 republic school pupil spartakiad from Kashka-Darya, and the young sharpshooters from Khorezm took last place.

It is being planned to establish 800 shooting galleries and many military villages in Uzbekistan in 1984. It is necessary for Komsomol committees to [?make them] Komsomol construction projects and to participate actively in establishing them through khashar [volunteer work] methods in timely fashion. It is necessary for student construction detachments and labor associations of vocational-technical education institutions and upper class pupils to make their contributions and they must do so [sic].

Organization of military-sport camps for young teenagers has been talked about for many years. Some comrades are providing "superficial" sponsorship and are demanding construction of pavilions; others are talking about staff, while still others under some pretense are not moving at all. Last year only six camps were opened and there are a total of 28 of them in the republic. In Namangan Oblast's Kasansayskiy Rayon they have found another approach to this matter. Here a Komsomol military sport camp with 200 places operates during summer vacation. Twenty staff members conduct military-technical and sport lessons. The DOSAAF rayon committee also makes a significant contribution. In time the camp has become a youth military village. The success of those in Kasansay has been achieved with the support of the rayon party committee and the interested support of the Soviet and economic organs and of the Komsomol organizations. Komsomol committees must achieve next year, in cooperation with organs of people's education, defense societies and military commissariats, though it is not much, the formation of one such camp in every rayon.

Practice is demonstrating that the Komsomol Central Committee 4th Plenum resolution concerning elimination of shortcomings in the development of many technical and military-applied types of sports is being carried out weakly. Let's take the development of parachuting in Uzbekistan as an example. Although our team took 6th place in the 8th All-Union spartakiad, this type of sport does not stand out by its mass nature. Just one parachutists' club is operating. The sport enthusiasts are poorly supplied with material parts. Moreover, in the pre-war years the legendary writer Julius Fucik told about the brave parachutist--the Uzbek girl Bashorat Mirboboyeva--in newspaper sketches. However, this type of sport, unfortunately, has not been sufficiently popularized. We ask that the Central Committee of the republic defense society carry out all possible work to improve the educational-material base of parachuting. We propose that All-Union competitions for the "Yoshlik" prize of the Uzbekistan LKSM Central Committee be held every year in the republic among parachutists.

Komsomol committees pledged to achieve the active mastery of military weapons and technology by youth as early as the first days of service. Competitions of Komsomol and DOSAAF organizations and a review of the best education points of factories' and farms' primary military preparedness called for this. However, these measures ratified by the Central Committee 4th Plenum are happening without the active participation of Komsomol committees. This can be explained by the [fact] that a majority of Komsomol cadre released from other work and a majority of the aktiv do not possess good military-technical qualifications and some comrades are not physically well-tempered. I think that the plenum will support our request to the Turkestan Military District Political Directorate to help hold field lessons and regular shooting [practice] for those of the Komsomol aktiv and those attending the Tashkent Republic and Andizhan Zonal Komsomol Schools.

The end of the fall draft into the ranks of the Soviet Army is approaching. Young men with a generally good general education and physical training have joined the fighting ranks of the defenders of the homeland. Among those drafted from Uzbekistan, 90 percent are members of the VLKSM, and there are almost 8,000 qualified agricultural machine operators.

The Komsomol committees and the military commissariats in Mamangan, Dzhizak and a number of other oblasts did a good job of following youths into the Armed Forces. At the same time, it is appropriate to recall today the speech given by First Secretary of the Navoi Oblast Komsomol Committee B. Roziyev at the 4th Plenum of the Komsomol Committee. There were practical proposals in it about how the oblast Komsomol committees were intending to organize the work with draftees, especially from rural areas. However, the draft into the Army took place there simply and superficially. Apparently the actions of the oblast Komsomol committee did not correspond with its words.

A certain role in strengthening the country's defense capability is assigned to civil defense. It is necessary to raise the work directed toward increasing the responsibility of the Komsomol committees in cooperation with the civil defense offices for every youth fulfilling his civil defense duty.

One important direction of our activity is to raise youths who know how to overcome difficulties, are physically strong, and have great endurance. Thanks to tireless fatherly care shown by the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee, the possibilities for strengthening mass physical culture and sanitation matters are steadily broadening. The [fact that] our combined team took sixth place in the 8th summer spartakiad of peoples of the USSR is proof of this.

However, the sheen of the medals of champions must not hide existing shortcomings and reserves. Komsomol committees, satisfied with previous successes, weakened their attention to sport for children and adolescents. Sportsmen of this age were unable to achieve everything they are capable of in the All-Union Spartakiad of School Pupils and the All-Union Young People's Games.

Workers of Andizhan and Namangan like to show guests fine stadiums and sports complexes for which great amounts are being spent to build and maintain. However, such complexes are rarely allowed to be used by adolescents. It is for this very

reason that the results of those participating in the "Hope Starts" and the republic school pupil competitions are getting worse every year. The "Andizhanka" women's hockey team is no longer in the higher league. The Namangan Oblast Komsomol Committee took 14th place in 1983 according to results in completing the 1983 sports calendar.

The Uzbekistan LKSM Central Committee considers increasing the Komsomol committees' responsibility for raising children, pupils, and worker village youth to be its important obligation; the participation of every Pioneer, Komsomol and youth in physical culture, sport and tourism must be achieved.

We must evaluate the effectiveness of Komsomol influence on developing physical training among youth not by pretty-sounding reports but by the youths' actual preparedness for military service. The Kashka-Darya Oblast Komsomol Committee reported boldly that 91 percent of the oblas' draftees had earned the GTO [??] and that three-fourths were sportsmen who had earned a class. The comrades of Kashka-Darya were somewhat more modest; according to the oblast Komsomol committee's account, 89.5 percent had earned the GTO. Therefore [sic], among the youths filling the army, many are encountered who have not received the necessary tempering of sport. Unfortunately, obligatory physical exercises, sports holidays and health days have been omitted from the life of many schools, vocational-technical schools and teckhnikums. The Komsomol organizations are also responsible for this.

The mass physical culture movement serves as a great reserve for having an influence on the free time of young men and women, and on the formation of their interests and pastimes. The First Secretary of the Bulungurskiy Rayon Komsomol Committee, R. Abdurahmonov, forgot this truth. He responded to the just request of the young football players with bureaucratic red tape, but suffered himself. Nor is this the only troubling fact. Whenever the mass nature of sport is left to its own devices, violation of law and order among youth does not lessen, nor does drunkenness decrease. And when they go into the Army they add a lot of trouble for the command and political workers, and often violate military discipline.

The language of friendship and brotherhood--Russian--plays a great role in raising the preparedness of Uzbekistan youths for labor and defense. The theoretical journalistic works of Sh. R. Rashidov "Language of Friendship, Brotherhood and Cooperation" and "Language of Friendship and Brotherhood" are considered true textbooks of high political culture and class approach for Komsomol members. Political and economic studies, Leninist studies, debates, conferences and seminars for those attending lecture bureaus are all lively established forms of Komsomol work. Serious importance is being given to use of the language of cross-national encounter at meetings, in instructing the selected aktiv and completing Komsomol documents. The four best young Russian language teachers have been awarded the first Uzbekistan Lenin Komsomol Prizes.

There are quite a few good activities. However, the Central Committee School Department and Student Youth Department, Komsomol committees of many higher education institutions, and teacher Komsomol organizations have not been showing enough initiative and creative work in fulfilling the recommendations

of the republic Scientific-Practical Conference which took place in the city of Samarkand. Only one of ten students in the republic took part in last school year's Russian language olympiad. We can justifiably expect greater things from the Komsomol organizations of Russian philology faculties of the Republic Pedagogical Institute of Russian Language, our three universities and our pedagogical institutes.

It is hard to imagine the fighting life and heroic work of the fighters of the Army and Navy today without the powerful weapon of works of literature and art. A specific list is given in the resolutions of the 4th Plenum and in the complex plan of work to give cultural sponsorship to military sub-units. A year has passed, but because the Komsomol Central Committee Department of Culture has gotten wrapped up in "everyday" minor details, it has been unable to attract creative youth to participate in military-patriotic training. One hears justified critical remarks from soldiers, officers and political workers. "Yosh Gvardiya" Publishers is weakly reestablishing its work with authors of books of heroic patriotism. The "Ilhom" Club of Creative Youth is showing little interest in this important topic. There is one conclusion: it is necessary for cultural and artistic figures' sponsorship of fighters to be conducted in planned fashion, efficiently and actively. In order to create works about the daily fighting affairs of the Army and Navy it is very useful, in my opinion, for young writers, poets, composers and painters to make regular visits to Turkestan military subdivisions and to other military districts where fellow-countrymen are serving. There is no doubt that creative unions agree with this particular idea.

Recently the Andizhan Oblast Komsomol Committee Plenum, having generalized the best experience and uncovered reserves, demonstrated that the actual potential to raise all works of military-patriotic training in its entirety to the level demanded by the party, exists in every Komsomol organization. Every oblast, city and rayon Komsomol committee should follow the example of those in Andizhan and analyze without the commotion of high-sounding rhetoric their work towards fulfilling the resolutions of the Komsomol Committee 4th Plenum. The result of such a discussion of all aspects must be the mobilization of aktiv and cadres selected to fulfill unquestioningly every line of our resolutions.

CSO: 1836/37

ARMED FORCES

UZBEK SSR LKSM CC RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING MILITARY POLITICAL EDUCATION

Tashkent YOSH LENINCHI in Uzbek 27 Dec 83 p 3

["Resolution of the Uzbekistan LKSM Central Committee 7th Plenum: 'On the Work of Komsomol Republic Organizations in Fulfilling the Resolutions of the Uzbekistan LKSM Central Committee 4th Plenum and Measures in the Areas of Strengthening the Military-Patriotic and Physical Training of Youth and Inculcating Young Men and Women With Russian Language Skills'"]

[Excerpt] At the same time, there exist shortcomings and reserves in Komsomol committees' activity in the area of training youths in the spirit of military-patriotism and preparing them for the USSR Armed Forces Draft. The potential of the "Orlyonok" military-sport games, adolescent military-patriotic organizations, military sport camps, types of technical and military-applied sports, the GTO complex and sponsorship ties with military units is not being fully utilized.

The Komsomol committees of Syr-Darya, Kashka-Darya, Dzhizak and Khorezm Oblasts are not paying sufficient attention to the work of selecting military careers and choosing candidates for military academies. It still cannot be said that Komsomol workers and aktivs are always responsibly approaching the fulfillment of physical training and the improvement of military technical education. In the Komsomol organizations of Voroshilovskiy, Khatyrchinskiy, Yangiaryskiy, Sverdlovskiy, Chimbayskiy and other rayons they are taking a formalistic approach to turning in norms for young men and women on the GTO complex and to propagating military applied types of sport. Those completing secondary schools and vocational-technical education institutions, particularly in rural areas, do not have a sufficiently fluent mastery of Russian.

Questions of strengthening work with those of draft age and those being drafted is sometimes superficially and [only] formally discussed at meetings of primary Komsomol organizations and in many city and rayon Komsomol committees. Most Komsomol workers and aktivs do not possess the necessary military-technical qualifications.

The Uzbekistan LKSM Central Committee Plenum resolves:

1. Oblast, city and rayon Komsomol committees and primary Komsomol organizations of the republic shall analyze in a spirit of self-criticism their fulfillment of the resolutions of the Uzbekistan LKSM Central Committee 4th Plenum, and the

complex plan of measures for strengthening the military-patriotic and physical training of youths and preparing them to serve in the USSR Armed Forces. The unquestioning fulfillment of the indicated work shall be provided for and effectiveness of Komsomol work in the area of ideological and class tempering of the young defenders of the Homeland shall be achieved.

Mass patriotic movements of young men and women begun to [reads "begun to"; should read "dedicated to"] the glory of important social-political events of the country's life shall be better used in order to convincingly propagandize the socialist way of life and Soviet democracy, and to explain the complex international situation which is getting ever more tense due to the adventurist policy of the U.S. administration and its NATO allies. Proof shall be given of the aggressive essence of imperialism and of its diversionary activity directed against the USSR and the socialist friendly countries, and it shall be unmasked.

2. Primary Komsomol organizations shall strengthen the instilling in youth of respect toward military work and the career of Soviet officer. City and rayon schools of future cadets shall be organized. Unity of the movement of cooperation between Komsomol organizations [on the one hand] and organs of people's education and vocational-technical training, military commissariats, DOSAAF committees, and sports organizations [on the other] in order to raise the level of political, defense and general education preparedness and of propaganda work among youths and their families shall be provided. Together with military commissariats, recommendation of young men to enter military academies shall be approached with greater responsibility. Every candidate shall be reviewed at a meeting of a primary organization and in the bureau of the rayon or city Komsomol committee. Boarding schools and general education schools with enriched Russian language and military sport preparation instruction must be the object of particular care, attention and practical help from oblast, city and rayon Komsomol committees.

3. Komsomol committees, together with military commissariats and organs of people's education and vocational-technical training, shall perfect educational institutions' primary military preparedness. There shall be active participation in selection of military training cadre and development of a material base of primary military preparedness. Measures necessary to raise the quality of military-patriotic and mass defense work outside of class shall be adopted. The operation in every school and vocational-technical education institution of "Orlyonok" adolescent military sport games and military-applied circles and sections shall be achieved.

Komsomol sponsorship shall be provided to primary military preparedness points of enterprise; and party, war and labor veterans, as well as Komsomol workers and propagandists, shall be attracted to speak before draftees. Responsibility for the quality of students' training in military kafedras shall be increased. Fulfillment of the USSR Law "On the General Military Obligation" shall be made the personal responsibility of VLKSM members.

Komsomol committees shall participate more actively in strengthening the material base of civil defense. The donor movement shall be propagandized in all aspects.

4. The Uzbekistan LKSM Central Committee Department of Sport and Mass Defense, and the oblast, city and rayon Komsomol committees, shall achieve every youth's physical tempering and passing the norms of the GTO complex, and regular participation in technical and military-applied types of sport. Military commissariats, together with sports and defense organizations, shall conduct kontrol checks on the degree to which youths have acquired practical skills and applied norms. Those who have had weak preparation shall be identified and attracted to additional lessons on physical training, shooting, horizontal beam exercises, grenade throwing, swimming and cross country. Every year republic competitions for the Uzbekistan LKSM Central Committee "Yoshlik" Prize in the sport of parachuting shall be held. A two-month campaign shall be held in February-March 1984 for construction of the simplest sports installations and transplanting into victory gardens and parks.

5. Oblast, city and rayon Komsomol committees shall strive for a fluent mastery of Russian to be the norm and civic obligation of every youth. There shall be participation in sending VLKSM members to the republic and RSFSR pedagogical institutes in that specialty, and likewise in raising the social-political qualifications of Russian language and literature teachers giving instruction in schools with tuition not in Russian.

The responsibility of teachers' and pupils' Komsomol organizations of schools, vocational-technical and specialized secondary education institutions shall be increased for thorough mastery of the Russian language and for the formation of pupils' high consciousness in the process of social-political work connected with [such acquisition].

CSO: 1836/37

ARMED FORCES

WRITERS INVOLVED IN MILITARY EDUCATION

[Editorial Report] Ashkhabad ADEBIYAY VE SUNGAT in Turkmen 13 January 1984 on page 3 carries a 400-word article by Ikar Pases'ev on the relationship between the Writers Union and military-patriotic education as discussed at the "broad plenum of the Commission on Military Literature of the TSSR Writers Union," which was chaired by Ashyr Nazarov. At the meeting "Lt-Col A.F. Nasybullin, a section chief of the Republic Military Commissariat, expressed the wish that writers should meet more often with future soldiers in schools, factories, kolkhozes and sovkhoses, study their lives deeply and write stories and poems about them." Also, O. Orazmukhammedov, a representative of the TSSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, noted the importance of MVD and Writers Union writers contests in furthering patriotic education.

MILITARY-PATRIOTIC EDUCATION STRESSED

[Editorial Report] Ashkhabad MUGALLYMLAR GAZETI in Turkmen 15 January 1984 on page 1 carries a 1,300-word lead editorial on the importance of giving students a military-patriotic education. While noting that "some republic schools have had good results in giving students an ideational-political, military-patriotic education and in preparing them for military service," it is added that "at the same time there are also schools which do not make enough preparations for students to enter the USSR Armed Forces." Another point stressed is that students are not stimulated to "read newspaper and magazine articles on social-political themes which demonstrate the policy of the CPSU and Soviet Government on the peace and security of peoples and against the reactionary mechanizations of imperialism."

CSO: 1835/9

ARMED FORCES

IMPORTANCE OF RUSSIAN IN ARMY STRESSED

[Editorial Report] Ashkhabad MUGALLYMLAR GAZETI in Turkmen 22 January 1984 on page 2 carries a 3,700-word unsigned report on the Republic Scientific-Practical Conference on the theme "Russian Is the Language of the Great Brotherhood of Peoples." Among the speakers was N. N. Svidin, chief of the Political Section of the TuSSR Military Commissariat, who said that "the Soviet Armed Forces are truly international due to their public nature and duties. Representatives of all nationalities in our multinational Fatherland are serving in the ranks of the Soviet Armed Forces. All military and political training in the Soviet Army is conducted in Russian. Thus, the importance here of Russian as a means of communication between different nations has grown considerably." Stressing the importance of studying Russian for those not yet called into service, it was added that "as a result of the work being done, the number of teenagers with a weak knowledge of Russian is falling in the republic. Despite this, however, there are still youths of the local nationality entering military service with a weak knowledge of Russian."

CSO: 1835/10

GROUND FORCES

GRADE INFLATION EVIDENT DURING COMPETITIONS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Colonel V. Zababurin: senior officer, Headquarters, Rocket Troops and Artillery, Red Banner Odessa Military District: "From Average to Excellent"]

[Text] Once the members of the inspection commission in one of the units of our military district proposed to a regimental commander that he present for inspection any excellent subunit at his own discretion, and guarantee that it would confirm its high ranking. It would seem that such an option could only please a commander. It was a great opportunity, as they say, to show off one's goods without contriving. In fact something quite different happened. The officer became upset at the proposal. It became clear that he was not confident in the success of any of his five "excellent" companies. The inspections which were held shortly thereafter confirmed that his doubts were not unfounded.

I recalled this incident for a reason. During a recent inspection of an artillery unit, several batteries and battalions considered excellent were content with only satisfactory marks. How had it happened that mediocre, "average" units had been rated among the leaders?

I believe that the fact is that some commanders, not wishing to lag behind in competition, consciously elevate the marks of their subordinates. In so doing they artificially inflate the number receiving marks of excellent, conferring this high ranking on incompletely prepared soldiers. Thus, during the course of training, Major Ye. Rud', a battalion commander, gave the majority of crews an excellent mark in fulfilling the norms. But when it was necessary to fire during the concluding stage of the exercise, battalion personnel on the whole could barely handle the task. Here it turns out that the number of excellent rankings grows, but the combat capabilities of the subunit and its combat readiness remains at the former, frankly speaking, entirely mediocre level.

A similar thing happened in the battery commanded by Sr Lt A. Maleyev. At the start of the summer training period in the past training year, when there were only a few soldiers with excellent rankings, the battery fired "satisfactory." The artillerymen had the very same result at the concluding stage of the training year, when every other soldier in the subunit and every other crew had an excellent ranking.

Obviously it is not necessary to recall that it is not the evaluation itself which is important, but the level of skill of the specialists -- how they can solve the combat training tasks set before them in an effective and high-quality manner. The evaluation absolutely must be objective and reflect the actual state of affairs. Unfortunately, I must state that some commanders, in the chase after a high percentage of excellent rankings in their subunit, forget about this truth.

I will give this example. In one unit two mortar batteries were competing against each other. The number of excellent rankings was approximately equal. But the subunits were far from equal in solving their tasks in tactical training. The battery commanded by Captain V. Zhukov received an excellent evaluation in firing. But their rivals, the battery commanded by Sr Lt A. Murenkov, received an unsatisfactory rating. No commentary is needed here.

This training year the soldiers of the district's artillery units fervently supported the initiative of the initiators of socialist competition in the Ground Forces and set high commitments for themselves, to include increasing the number of excellent rankings. This is a gratifying fact. But it is important for the combat capabilities of the subunits and their ability to solve successfully the difficult tasks of modern combat to increase also, along with the number of excellent rankings. The subunits which have more excellent rankings must be the best everywhere and in everything. For this it is necessary to display more exactingness in determining who is excellent, and in giving ratings during day-to-day combat training -- in exercises and drills, as is done, for example, in the artillery battery commanded by Captain S. Prusakov.

The training which I attended was carried out precisely, on a high methodological level, with no indulgences or oversimplification. The battery commander noted the smallest flaws in accomplishing the techniques, and very few of his subordinates received excellent ratings for fulfilling the norms. But they were objective evaluations. I am sure that excessive generosity in giving marks can only harm matters.

Excellent subunits are a commander's pride and support. He must entrust them to accomplish the most difficult tasks without a shadow of doubt, and must always be sure that they will accomplish them with honor. That is how it was during the Great Patriotic War, when the best trained subunits were put in the critical sectors. And today the rank of "excellent subunit" must be a sort of password of readiness to accomplish the most difficult task.

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CSO: 1801/225

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

RADAR OPERATORS ILL-PREPARED FOR SURPRISE AIR ATTACKS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Lt Col V. Krivenkov, radio engineering unit commander: "From the First Seconds"]

[Text] If one were to analyze the characteristic shortcomings committed by soldiers of the subunit commanded by Major V. Chikunov in recent comprehensive exercises, one might notice that most of these shortcomings occur in the initial period of combat work. It is namely in the first minutes of battle, especially when it begins suddenly, that lack of coordination in the actions of specialists and flagrant errors caused by haste and incompletely thought out decisions are most observed. Subsequently, as a rule, the situation at the work place stabilizes and precision and confidence appear in people's activities, even if the air situation becomes significantly more complicated.

I would like to give some thought here to this phenomenon. In summing up exercises we usually evaluate subunits according to the final result. If the task is completely accomplished, this is usually enough to receive a high mark. Defects in the initial period, if they did not especially impact on the final result, were frequently not taken into consideration. They were viewed as annoying but unavoidable slip-ups. Of course this was a failure which influenced the quality of the specialists' military training, for one cannot overlook the fact that for air defense troops the initial period of combat operations, that of repulsing massive strikes of an air enemy armed with highly effective and accurate weapons, may be highly intense and filled with the most complex of situations. This means that it is also necessary to prepare oneself to carry out modern combat ably and confidently from its very first seconds and minutes.

It must be recognized that we do not always think deeply about this obvious truth, and at times do not reach conclusions from it for our practical actions. Let us take, for example, the procedure for conducting exercises which has already become traditional for some subunits. In these procedures the air situation develops gradually. As a rule it is not exceptionally complex, and only after time passes, sometimes enough so that initial emotion has subsided and people have entered their customary businesslike rhythm and found psychological stability, do sharp and dynamic situations begin to appear.

This sort of organization of combat training permits working out definite tactical techniques and displaying strong and weak aspects in the training of

specialists, crews and subunits. But it is undoubtedly also true that it does not fully correspond to present day demands. Some subunit commanders do not always take this into account when working out training and tactical exercise concepts, frequently leading to undesirable consequences which we have repeatedly seen in practice.

Let us take, for example, one of the best subunits in the unit commanded by Lt Col V. Aleynikov. I do not recall an instance in which the radar operators accomplished the task before them poorly during combat training work. But then one of the tactical exercises of this training year began in an unusual way. The air "enemy" undertook a massive attack with the simultaneous use of a large number of fast, low-flying and maneuvering targets, operating under conditions of heavy interference. The factor of surprise, and the need to carry out intense combat work in an extremely complex situation from the very first seconds, sharply influenced the actions of the specialists. Some of them were found to be unprepared for such an ordeal, and displayed lack of coordination and confusion. As a result the subunit received a low rating.

We analyzed this incident in detail and determined that all the situations which had arisen in the exercise were in general not new to the radar operators. They had met similar situations during exercises. But whereas earlier they had moved gradually to peak intensity combat work, in this exercise it occurred immediately -- at the very outset.

This incident led us to the indisputable conclusion that training of personnel to repulse the air enemy ably and effectively from the first seconds and minutes of combat must occupy a central place in a number of training tasks being developed. Consequently, during training it is necessary to stress primarily creation of the most complex conditions which may arise in real combat. We also imposed this requirement on subunit commanders in the unit.

However, coming to a correct conclusion is just the beginning. The main thing is to accomplish it in practice, especially as it is far from easy to accomplish. First of all, it is not always possible to create an appropriate situation with only the simulators used in everyday training. They are noticeably inferior to operations against real targets in terms of the acuteness of the situation and psychological impact. Second, not all commanders yet possess a feeling for new situations and an ability to foresee those which their subunit is most likely to encounter, and which may arise in a real combat environment. The inability to foresee, to look ahead and figuratively speaking to think "for" the enemy frequently leads to the introduction of routine into exercise concepts. This is true although at first glance such exercises also have various hypothetical inputs and complicated situations.

The radar company commanded by Major V. Chikunov has worked out crew coordination under conditions of a mass "enemy" air attack. This exercise had maneuvering targets, interference and hypothetical inputs, however, there was no feeling of real tension. The specialists worked precisely and confidently, and the whole exercise took place, as they say, without a hitch. It seemed as though one could only be glad for the success of the radar operators. But we will look at what was behind this situation, which outwardly seemed intense and

complex. Many situations had been seen frequently before, and the specialists' actions under these circumstances naturally were worked out in detail. Therefore, they met with nothing new and unexpected. Other situations, which presented some complexity for the specialists, upon closer examination turned out to be contrived and hardly possible for the initial period of actual combat operations. And the exercise concerned contemplated variations of exactly this period. We thoroughly analyzed the errors of the subunit commander at the critique, and Major Chikunov reached the necessary conclusions.

Other commanders, in working out the training plan, do not always think about what level of specialist training it is designed for, or how new, unexpected or instructive its elements are for the specialists. And without taking into account the level of professional training of the specialists, it is hardly possible to arrange their effective training or teach them to act skillfully from the first seconds of battle.

In my view a stereotyped approach to creating conditions in exercises which are close to those of actual combat also interferes with achieving this aim. In planning exercises, stress is placed primarily on creating a complex air environment, filled with every possible surprise and suddenly changing situations. But this is only one side of the matter. It is also necessary to remember the possibility, which may arise, that right from the outset of combat it may be necessary to conduct operations at reduced strength, under conditions in which some models of equipment have been completely taken out of commission or their tactical and technical capabilities have been significantly reduced.

In practice, however, judging from the experience of our unit, frequently if this situation was even considered it was with a significant amount of pre-arrangement. In exercise inputs those stations were put out of commission which did not especially impact on accomplishing the missions, those specialists who were replaced were usually low category specialists, and the replacement itself most often did not take place at the most intense moments. In short, the desire of some commanders to receive a high rating took precedence over their striving to maximize opportunities to train their subordinates for operations under conditions close to those of combat.

Having this in mind, when summing up exercises we began to take into account in determining the marks of subunits not only the indicated results, but also by what forces and resources and under what conditions they were achieved. This approach encourages commanders to be creative and to create in exercises those conditions which most facilitate the training of their subordinates for successful operations in real combat.

In a recent exercise, for example, personnel of the company commanded by Sr Lt N. Karpenko made several mistakes. However, in summing up we marked the subunit among the best. We considered the fact that the company commander, proceeding from the overall exercise concept, was able to complicate significantly the combat working conditions, especially in the initial exercise period.

In organizing combat training, one must also not exclude the likelihood that the initial period of combat operations will demand from all specialists not

only great intensity, maximum coordination and precise operations, but also significant repair and restoration work. This means that it is necessary to train more actively to solve such tasks, and to take them into account in organizing training and exercises. We also came to this conclusion. It goes without saying that there are also many other features most likely in actual modern combat. Of course I did not set for myself the task of analyzing all of them. I merely wished to stimulate an interest in this question stemming from my own experience, which is important in my opinion, and take a look at how to intensify the training process in order to attain the main objective -- to train our subordinates to operate capably from the first seconds of actual combat.

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CS0: 1801/225

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

AIR COMBAT TRAINING EXERCISE DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Major G. Torzhok, Red Banner Belorussian Military District:
"Commanders' Flights"]

[Text] Captain V. Bashlykov, a combat control officer, looked at his watch. The second hand ticked off the last minute before the beginning of the flights. Already the first pair of fighters, led by Major A. Karchevskiy, squadron commander and military pilot 1st class, had moved to the takeoff position. The second aircraft was piloted by Major V. Murmylo, a military pilot 1st class.

The group of fighters which had taken to the air faced aerial combat with an experienced "enemy." These pilots had repeatedly shown their great skill in one-on-one battles. This, though, would be special. First of all it is a group maneuver battle. Second, the pilots are commanders and are in view of their subordinates.

The aviators had trained thoroughly for this responsible mission. While still on the ground they modeled flight variations and gamed them from beginning to end using the "walk-through flight training" method. They envisioned different variations of "enemy" actions. They knew that the smallest error in the air would cause the mission to fail. They also prepared themselves psychologically for victory.

Fulfilling the brief, precise commands of Captain Bashlykov, who had already begun his battle with the "enemy," the fighters entered the area of engagement. The lead pair, majors V. Murmylo and A. Karchevskiy, attentively inspected the hemisphere to their front. The success of the attack largely depended on who noticed his rival first, having created for himself time to attack.

As the combat control officer informed, the target was coming from nearly a 90 degree angle. Not only that, but the attack was at great approach angles. Everything was important in this; both the skill of the pilot and the reliability of the air equipment and armaments. The leading pair had already noticed characteristic blips on the radar sights. There were two of them. They must exploit their advantage! This variation also had been worked out on the ground. Karchevskiy and Murmylo sped to meet the "enemy" fighters. Right behind them raced their wingmen, majors V. Kalugin and A. Ischanov, both pilots 1st class. First at the point of attack were the pair led by Major Murmylo.

The officer, having created conditions for firing, suddenly saw bright spots flash on the screen of his sight, and the target faded and its radar pip was lost among them. The "enemy" had used chaff! Would they really fail?

The loss of the target was just for an instant. The pilot was able immediately to distinguish it from the interference. His actions with the cabin instruments were almost automatic, but had been thoroughly comprehended back before the flight in the training classrooms.

Judging by his maneuver, the "enemy" had also detected the group of fighters. He unexpectedly made a forced turn to the side of an attacking fighter. A maneuver battle was joined. Major Murmylo, exploiting the power of his fighter, sought to thrust a vertical maneuver on the "enemy." This enabled him to keep the initiative. Major Karchevskiy and his wingman restricted the actions of the "enemy" on the banking turns. But the enemy, having seemingly gone on the defense, unexpectedly made a half turn. He clearly was trying to come out to the rear of the attackers in order to himself fire. But the fighters had also figured out this scheme in advance.

The leaders, having made rapid maneuvers, ended up more or less to the side of their wingmen. The "enemy" fell for this clever tactic and fired at the leaders. The maneuver which the fighters then performed in the air looked like scissors closing. Kalugin and Ischanov completed the leaders' plan and destroyed the "enemy" in a swift attack.

During the next flight shift, young pilots were already participating in aerial battles. The experience of their senior comrades stood them in good stead in their one-on-one encounters with the "enemy."

Competing to greet fittingly the elections for the USSR Supreme Soviet, the aviators persistently improve their skill and actively struggle to fulfill their commitments.

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CSO: 1801/225

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

EXPERIENCES OF SOVIET TEST PILOTS DESCRIBED

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 26 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by D. Medvedev: "One Out of a Few"]

[Text] /We live in a century of collective efforts. Thousands and millions of people pass daily through the turnstiles of entrance gates in order to take their places at a machine tool or a bagging machine and to sit at a bookkeeping desk or in the cab of a hoisting crane. Only a few among us are considered parachute testers. All of them know each other. Frankly speaking, the profession is not a popular one. Today our subject is about one out of a few--Oleg Konstantinovich Khomutov, Hero of the Soviet Union and a parachute tester./ [in boldface]

There were two on the brigade's roll. He was an unusual but promising tester, but the main thing was the ejection seat which is needed very much by military pilots. The program envisaged five full-scale experiments under operating conditions noted for speed, altitude and dynamic head pressure. The first experiment for Khomutov's colleague--his school friend at MAI [Moscow Aviation Institute imeni Sergo Ordzhonikidze]--ended tragically. Oleg Khomutov had to fly next after new tests with a dummy. He functioned in accordance with the program. But how hard it was for him to cover step by step the entire last path of his lost friend, and while not forgetting for a second what was at the end. His narrative is striking in its dullness and its kind of down-to-earth quality.

"Before ejection I pressed the back of my head into the headrest of the seat, but at the moment the ejection seat cartridge discharged I didn't restrain my head and I smashed my face against the glazing of the pressure helmet," related Oleg. "Shouldn't it perhaps be written in the instructions for pilots to press their chin into their chest? There is not enough strength whatever to keep the head from nodding during a high g-force. But, indeed, a bruised lip and a smashed nose didn't spoil my attitude."

"Then for the first time, in connection with Valentin's death, they put a radio in my outfit. Test pilots report to the ground in code. And the radio operators asked me: 'Give it in plain text and just don't remain silent. If only we knew that you're alive.' Thus I did my first reporting from a high altitude after ejecting at supersonic speed. I sang."

"The sea was below. From that altitude what seemed like ripples was in reality steep waves. The support ships were easily visible. If you land in the water, the sailors fish you out. At first, the wind carried me along the shore. But at 2,000 meters, just as the meteorologists promised, I was carried towards land. From above it was like plowed land, but I hit hard. Right away I was dragged."

"I unsnapped the fasteners. The parachute canopy collapsed. I turned a somersault several times on the move and landed in the scorched earth. The boys had already jumped from the helicopter which was landing. And that's the way the tests were concluded without incident."

That's the way a safe, new survival aid, which comes to one's aid in all sorts of flight situations of a modern supersonic aircraft at all altitude and speed ranges, made its appearance among the pilots. The seat went into series production.

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet conferred the rank of Hero of the Soviet Union to Oleg Konstantinovich Khomutov for great services in the business of testing new aircraft and for the courage and heroism shown here.

We know only a few test pilots. They seldom write about these people. But things wouldn't happen without their daily tedious and planned labor. And not just in aviation.

Fame did not spoil Oleg Konstantinovich Khomutov and he did not lose his human cordiality. This is a considerate son, an interesting conversationalist and a thoughtful father.

There is such a word as "enterprising." Not in the sense of someone who rakes it in, but in the sense of an artisan. Oleg is that kind of person. Many of the things in his quarters he made himself. But I admired one article with particular pleasure: a golden autumn birch twig against a black lacquered background and white little trunks with black marks. It can say a great deal about the harmony of the author's soul.

Test pilots are presently being trained in special schools. But there is no training institution anywhere that gives a diploma for an ejection seat tester. Parachute testers learn on their own. But, of course, not without the assistance of senior comrades.

After the war, front-line soldiers and airborne troops tested parachutes. The boys with diplomas from MAI have replaced them. It was up to the young people to adopt the subtleties of the profession. I saw photographs of the veterans in Oleg Konstantinovich's album.

Tests can't be done without strange occurrences. During one of the flights in accordance with the program, pilot Arkadiy Pavlovich Bogorodskiy flashed on the "attention" transparency for Khomutov. He checked out the ejection gun mechanism, removed the plugs and pin to special places and switched on the "ready" toggle switch. The pilot flashed on a new command "get ready." The tester reaches out for the seat control handles, but can't reach them and he can't

squeeze the safety device and pull the handles towards himself. The boys had strapped Oleg so tightly to the seat that he couldn't reach them! The "go" transparency flashed on, but he can't eject himself.

The seconds fly. Every one takes the parachutist 1,000 meters from the authorized landing point. Communications were disconnected before ejection. The pilot doesn't know anything. He gave the command "as you were." But then he doesn't want to return with nothing. Khomutov stretched his left hand to the safety device on the right handle and pulled it towards himself. The ejection device must also function on one handle. But why is there no ejection? But then there's the impact of the ejection seat cartridge. And now the impact of the air stream. He ejected!

A long-standing commandment for a parachutist is to steer oneself at a distance of about 300 meters from the ground and then there's enough force. Khomutov violated it. He broke through the cloud cover somewhere near 2,000 meters. There was a river under his legs. He started to pull the parachute shroud lines in order to go sideways. The parachute canopy is uncontrollable, the pressure suit binds his movements, he has to hold his arms over his head and he's grown tired. He plopped down on the very shore, but nevertheless on dry land. And there are kids here from the Young Pioneer camp. They're running amuck. "Hands up, fellow!" They took him for a trespasser. This was shortly after the spy pilot Powers was shot down. He's yelling: "I'm one of your own!" He's pointing to his helmet where "USSR" is written. They don't believe him. They arrived in the helicopter for the parachute tester. The Young Pioneers say: "Excuse us, fellow." He laughs at "fellow": "Fine kids! You're serving the motherland!"

Is it possible for a parachute tester to work for a long time? I have in mind not only the annual flight surgeon's board which can take one off flying status for the slightest hitch. The matter is broader. Is there enough passion and energy in a person for a long time? In fact, each time while ejecting himself into the roaring uncertainty, the tester can't help but weigh the worst result. A person spends himself and wears out, and a person begins to be afraid.

There was a case when a skilled test pilot who was incapable of performing a difficult but feasible task, and he blamed anybody but himself. He was replaced. And on his first flight another pilot performed something a veteran never mastered. There's the expression "washed up" pilot. We pedestrians can't begin to condemn a pilot who is "washed up." Since his colleagues didn't do this. But the tester's integrity, his decency and indeed common sense demand: leave in time. You'll start to be afraid and ruin yourself and perhaps someone else too.

Oleg Konstantinovich left when he needed to. He became an engineer. And while demanding neither the former attention nor the honor. Courageous people are always unpretentious. Konstantin Paustovski wrote that according to eastern wisdom a person should learn the first third of one's life, travel the second third and give back to people the imprint of one's soul for a third. There is something for the three-time world record holder and Hero of the Soviet Union Oleg Konstantinovich Khomutov to give back to people.

His story "Ejection" was published in the parachute tester's home area newspaper "BEREZNIKOVSKIY RABOCHIY" for 28 July 1982. In my opinion, the story was written not only with a thorough knowledge of the subject, but also with a light, refined pen. We would like to hope that Oleg Khomutov's first experience at literature won't turn out to be the last. Every road begins with the first step.

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CSO: 1801/246

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AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET TROOPS REBUILD MOSQUE, ESTABLISH SCHOOL

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 22 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by TASS correspondent V. Gladilov of the limited contingent of Soviet forces in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan: "Disinterested Assistance"]

[Text] /Buildings are demolished, a bridge is damaged and urgent medical assistance is needed--and soldiers of the limited contingent of Soviet forces invariably are the first to come to the aid of the Afghan peasants. While performing their international duty, day in and day out they are assisting the friendly nation to build a peaceful life./ [in boldface]

/An unexpected task/ [in boldface]

When the subunit [podrazdeleniye] entered the mountain village demolished by the Dushman tribesmen--the school building was blown up and the majority of the peasants' dwellings lay in ruins--Junior Sergeant Anvar Rakhimov could only say in a fit of temper: "There is nothing sacred among these bandits."

And, as had already occurred time and again, the commander of the subunit quickly gave orders to the platoons: the first platoon is to clear away the obstructions, the second platoon is to prepare the material, and the third platoon ...

A group of local inhabitants unexpectedly approached the Soviet soldiers and they began to explain something with emotion to the interpreter. Then he furrowed his brow:

"The peasants are asking that first of all the Soviet soldiers help to restore the demolished mosque."

And he added in an apologetic tone of voice:

"What are you going to do, all of those here are believers."

The third platoon was busy restoring the mosque. All the local inhabitants positively hastened here to help. But Sergeant A. Rakhimov who was in charge of the brigade very tactfully and gently sent half of the peasants to restore the school.

Having rendered the assistance, the company went on farther. In the repaired mosque praise was lifted up to the Soviet soldiers and studies began at the school.

/A bridge of friendship/ [in boldface]

While pursuing a band of Dushman tribesmen, the Afghan subunits forced a mountain river on the move. The battle rolled back into the mountains. And people, wagons and vehicles accumulated at the crossing destroyed by the bandits. This road is one of the main ones along which the population of dozens of mountain villages are supplied with provisions, the peasants ride and walk to the bazaars and get to the hospitals.

A group of Soviet soldiers who were urgently sent by the command headquarters at the request of the Afghans were faced with solving a difficult task: minimum time was allotted for installation of the crossing.

Even Senior Lieutenant A. Dukhov, an experienced officer, was nonplussed: how could the traffic be cleared during the calculated time?

Private K. Sunnatov proposed an unexpected solution:

"Both my father and my grandfather were cavalrymen. Let us erect cavalry bridges too."

And he explained it on the spot:

"This is a peculiar pyramid made of three sturdy poles covered with boards and filled with rocks. The pyramids are installed in staggered rows along the river bottom and the bridge floor is placed on them."

Minutes passed with the commander making engineering calculations of the current's speed and the possible weight of the pyramids. And the soldiers had already prepared the material, since there was much of it on the banks of the river. The Afghan peasants, who took great interest in the unusual activities of the soldiers, began to help them.

Everything was completed now in a few hours of friendly teamwork. Traffic was resumed along the bridge of friendship and now it isn't called anything else.

/At the soldier's club/ [in boldface]

At their soldier's club, the soldiers listened attentively to the story of Private Miral' Zukurov about his trip home. The soldiers are glad about every line from the motherland.

The door suddenly opened slightly and new listeners--Afghan peasants from neighboring villages--entered the small hall. It was not the first time that they had visited our soldiers at the invitation of the political workers and they are especially interested in life in a soviet country.

The talk turned out to be interesting. M. Zukurov brought color slides from his village. A palace of culture, a school, wide streets lined with poplars, cozy and comfortable cottages in the middle of orchards, passenger cars in front of houses, farms and a machinery park appeared before the eyes of the audience. The photographs, which were nothing out of the ordinary for each of the Soviet soldiers, often caused exclamations of genuine surprise among the Afghan peasants. It was difficult for them to believe that simple workers possess all these riches.

The political worker's speech became a natural continuation of the soldier's story. He spoke about the fact that in the Soviet Union preparations were unfolding for elections to the country's supreme organ of power. When the brief biographies of several candidates--a worker, a female kolkhoz worker and a female school teacher--were read, there was no limit to the surprise and the delight of the Afghan peasants.

Quite a few arrangements of this kind were planned and have already been conducted by the soviet of the soldier's club. The soldiers are strengthening international friendship through word and deed.

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CSO: 1801/246

AFGHANISTAN

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON GUARDING OF AFGHAN BRIDGE

PM011515 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 84 Second Edition p 3

["Dispatch from Afghanistan" by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Skrizhalin: "The Bridge"]

[Text] Before flowing into the Amu Darya the Qonduz River runs along comparatively flat terrain bordering the USSR. Its waters--abundant by Afghan standards--bring life. The water has also determined the main occupation of the inhabitants of these parts--arable farming. The Chahar Dar Valley, which "flows" into the Gonduz Valley, like the river's entire left bank, is the province's main grain area. At harvest time from sunrise to sunset traffic across the river bridge does not abate for a minute. Trucks, carts, laden camels and donkeys...Grain, cotton, straw--it all advances toward Qonduz from the cooperative farm fields and the peasant plots.

Not a very good road--only a dirt road--but it is a vitally important artery, as they say. Closing it and consequently breaking off communications is not particularly difficult: You only have to blow up the bridge.

And there have already been attempts to do so.

So the local authorities asked the command of the limited contingent of Soviet troops to help guard the crossing over the Qonduz. Thus a Soviet artillery battery appeared at the bridge.

I intended to spend some 2-3 hours with the artillerymen. But it soon emerged that the armored reconnaissance and patrol vehicle which had brought me here had to be sent back before it started to grow dark, and I had to stay at the battery until morning.

...Were it not for the mountains visible in the distance, you would think it was a steppe river somewhere in southern Russia. The scarcely perceptible clear current, the sparse shrubs somehow reminiscent of willows, the sandbanks and islets, the shallows overgrown with sedge and rushes. And the bridge rising up above everything around us, on stone piers, joining the banks. Yes, if that bulky object were blown up, you could not reconstruct it in a hurry.

On the opposite, left, bank a hamlet can be seen some 3 km away.

Major V. Smolskiy, the artillery division commander, who has driven and walked all over the area here and who was now making a kind of inspection tour of his subunits scattered over dozens of kilometers and had been living at the battery for several days, managed to tell me something.

After the revolution the dushmans continued to rule the Chahar Dar Valley for a long time. State power extended no further than the district center. Among the gang-formations the largest and most influential was considered to be (Gulyam) group.

(Gulyam) was also one of the first to realize that he was on the wrong side of the barricades. He was followed by those who believed in him as a leader. Then the waverers joined him. In brief, something happened that is not infrequent in Afghanistan now: A former gang became a self-defense detachment.

My meeting with (Gulyam) himself, who was the main reason why I had stayed the night at the battery, took place on the spot, and utterly unexpectedly.

...The day was turning into evening. The stream of trucks, carts, and beasts of burden had abated on the road. Suddenly an armored transport vehicle appeared from the direction of the hamlet. Several men in the uniform of the Sarandoy (people's militia) and two in Afghan clothing with the picturesque additions of weapons and ammunition belts slung across their chests were sitting on top of the armored vehicle. From the way Mayor Smolskiy and Senior Lieutenant M. Khrykov, the battery commander, greeted them you could see they were old friends. One of the latter two men was in fact (Gulyam). The other--a little younger--was (Nalimdzhani), his bodyguard.

It emerged from the story told by the Sarandoy members and (Gulyam) that several gangs had approached the environs. (Their numbers seemed to me to be obviously exaggerated, but afterwards, late in the evening, Smolskiy was to tell me: (Gulyam's) men know how to count.) An attack on the hamlet was expected at night. That was why they had come to the battery: to ask for help.

The officers unrolled a map:

"Where are the dushmans?"

But however grave and concentrated (Gulyam's) expression as he drew his finger across the map, no clarification ensued: He simply could not find his way in this multicolored sheets of paper.

"Let's go to the place," the division commander decided. "We'll carry out a reconnaissance operation."

Seven men drove out beyond the bridge, to the left bank: the division commander, the battery commander, Senior Lieutenant V. Fishchuk, commander of the headquarters platoon, a machinegunner, a driver-mechanic, and two Afghans, including (Gulyam). They drove to where, according to unverified data, the rebels were believed to be concentrated.

...It had grown dark. The wait on the bridge, where everyone not on duty had gone, was dragging on. But we heard no shots, no explosions.

And finally there came the growing roar of an engine. It was the artillerymen returning with (Gulyam).

People go to bed early here. Before going to sleep three of us--the division commander, the battalion commander, and I--made the rounds of the posts and duty crews.

"Well, now we can go to sleep," Smolskiy said. "I can feel in my bones it will be quiet today."

"Why?"

"The arrival of the armored reconnaissance and patrol vehicle and our reconnaissance could have made the dushmans think that something was being prepared on our side. And most likely they will decide to wait to see what will actually happen. Of course, they may shoot, but no more."

...After breakfast we drove out to the hamlet. On the outskirts of the hamlet we met with (Gulyam). He looked cheerful:

"The dushmans have cancelled their operation. They said: The bosses have come to the shuravi [reference to Soviet soldiers]. Better to wait."

"But how do you know?"

"I kn-o-w," (Gulyam) drew out the word meaningfully.

Later the rebels nevertheless did attempt to carry out an "operation." But it failed. They were already expected.

When we drove into the hamlet it bore no resemblance to a front-line one. Even though armed people could be seen everywhere. But it was they, the fighters, the Sarandoy and the self-defense detachments patrolling the streets who helped the inhabitants to find tranquillity.

The engine of a scarlet Belarus tractor was peacefully turning over near the office of the agricultural cooperative, people were working on the distant fields, and school classes were in progress. We set off for the district PDPA committee. (Gulyam) was a little ahead of us. He was noticeably lame in his right leg: it had been blown up on a dushman mine.

...A neat little house looking tiny beneath the gigantic plane trees--the district party committee. Deputy secretary (Mukhammad Sakhi) met us.

A man who, to judge from his clothing, was not from these parts, rose from a nearby table:

"(Said Akhmad), fully empowered representative of the PDPA Provincial Committee."

Comrade (Said Akhmad) is a frequent guest here: He tours this region. But today his visit is connected with an event which, although it has become customary for present-day Afghanistan, is nonetheless always celebrated.

In a few hours' time in the neighboring hamlet a meeting was to take place to present land deeds to the peasants (Abdul Khalek) and (Akhmad Khan). Each had received 6 jeribs (1 jerib is equal to 0.2 hectares) of irrigated land previously belonging to the wealthy (Sali Akhmad Gadzhigutdin).

There was a time when the peasants refused to accept from the estate land confiscated from the feudalists. They were afraid of reprisal. Now you do not hear of such refusals. The people's power, the army, the Sarandoy, and the peasants themselves united in paramilitary formations ensure the inviolability of the land and of its new owners. Even so, I asked:

"But won't they be threatened? After all, the valley is still obviously surrounded by rebels who are just waiting for a convenient moment?"

(Gulyam) smiled:

"Let them try. Isn't that right, Comrade Major?"

"That's right, that's right, (Gulyam), Major Smolskiy confirmed.

The time had come to leave. The vehicle started off smoothly. A cloud of dust concealed the battery stationed below, by the water. But above it the bridge linking the banks, linking the people, peeped out with its girders.

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25 APRIL 1984